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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH, 2010

POST-16 CHARGES LEAD TO ANGER

Committee rebels over school bus transport

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

THE Vale Council cabinet will have to over-rule its own scrutiny committee, if it wishes to save cash on school transport for pupils over the age of 16.

On Monday (February 15) the scrutiny committee for education and lifelong learning rebelled and recommended that the council abandon plans to charge for existing school transport.

The council is considering a charge of £250, and points out that the actual annual cost is between £400 and £500, so the service would still be subsidised, but not to the same degree.

Another option under consideration is to discontinue the service and give a travel grant of £250 instead.

With 1,100 post-16 pupils using the service, the council hoped to save around £300,000 by the change in policy.

However, the fact that four representatives of the education sector have voting rights on the scrutiny committee meant that there was no in-built majority for Conservative members on the committee.

One representative votes on behalf of Catholic schools, one on behalf of Church-in-Wales schools, and two on behalf of secondaries.

The Conservative position was further weakened because the committee chairman, Coun John Clifford, was unable to attend.

With an election looming, parliamentary candidates in the Vale were quick to respond. Labour's Alana Davies, who is a cabinet member for education in neighbouring Bridgend, called it a "tax on home-to-school transport for pupils over the age of 16."

Alana Davies said: "Having attended the lifelong learning scrutiny committee on Monday evening, I was impressed with the eloquence of the speakers who represented schools, governors, pupils and parents in the Vale.

"I hope that the Vale Council cabinet will take into account the very real issues that were raised in Monday's meeting, and accept the recommendation of the scrutiny committee."

The Plaid Cymru candidate, Dr Ian Johnson, said: "The speakers from all of the major schools and colleges were united by their opposition to the plans, which were described as ill-thought through and against the vision of education in Wales as offering a wide choice of study and supporting aspiration for young people."

However, the Conservative's parliamentary candidate, Alun Cairns, had a very different take on the issue.

He pointed to an amendment to school transport that he had proposed in the Assembly 18 months ago, claiming that if it had not been blocked by Labour and Plaid AMs, then the situation would not have arisen.

He said: "I proposed an amendment that would have made it a legal obligation for post-16 school transport to be free of charge.

"The amendment would also have made the Assembly responsible for funding that transport, but it was only supported by the Conservatives and the Lib-Dems."

In a statement, the Vale Council re-iterated that the education department has to find savings of £3 million, and that the £300,000 would make a significant contribution.

The Vale Council's director of learning and development, Bryan Jeffreys, said: "The challenge is clear.

"In circumstances where the education service is required to find such significant savings, and where there is a commitment to seek to protect schools' budgets as far as possible, savings from non-statutory services such as post-16 transport, must be pursued.

"Transport for pupils aged over 16 is currently provided free of charge at the discretion of the council whereas, for secondary school pupils aged under 16 living more than three miles from their schools, there is a statutory requirement to provide free transport."

He argued that the financial position for councils in Wales was "dire", saying: "The overall savings target is detailed in the Medium Term (Three-Year) Financial Plan agreed by the council cabinet in July, 2009.

"This outlines the intended approach to address the need for significant savings in response to the dire position of public sector finances in Wales.

"Actual budgets are set on an annual basis by full council and, for 2010/2011, this will be at a meeting of the authority on March 3.

"The work of scrutiny committees, including the discussion on Monday, will inform the final decisions. Other factors which will be taken into account, include consideration of cost pressures, potential areas for savings, the Welsh Assembly Government settlement and council tax options."

Mr Jeffreys added: "The scrutiny committee process has enabled the views of parents, schools, governors and students to be expressed, and these will be considered by cabinet before any decision is taken."

Coun Gwyn John contacted The GEM to say that young people in his ward had the furthest to travel, particularly those going to St Richard Gwyn and then on to St David's College, Cardiff, in the sixth form.

He said: "For so long, all political parties have regarded education as a priority, so the Llantwit First Independents will be opposing this plan."

Tosca girls!

THESE are exciting times for two Cowbridge schoolgirls, who are about to go on tour with the Welsh National Opera.

Amazingly, both Asha Fletcher-Peters (far left) and her sister Hana, were doing nothing more than singing for fun only 18 months ago.

To read how they 'found' their voices, turn to page 25.

'Bosch land won't be used for retail, or housing' – PLEDGE

Politicians work to limit impact of closure

by TIM CHAPMAN

THE Vale Council will not allow the land at Bosch to become a housing estate or a retail development.

Coun Rhodri Traherne, the cabinet member for economic development and regeneration, contacted The GEM to reassure local people that land would not gain planning permission for houses or retail uses.

In his letter *(see page 2)* he explained: "The current situation is quite clear. Bosch occupies around 33 acres and has had 'outline planning consent' for the development of around a further 131 acres for 'industrial purposes' since 1989.

"As such, at any time during the last 20 years Bosch could have submitted a planning application for 'detailed consent' for the consideration of the Vale Council planning committee.

"The potential use of these 131 acres is clearly identified in the council's Unitary Development Plan as land for employment purposes. Furthermore there is a specific policy in the plan protecting such land for employment use, which excludes both residential and retail use."

Mr Traherne added that influential politicians locally and nationally were in agreement on the subject.

"I have spoken to the Leader of the Council, Coun Gordon Kemp, and he is adamant that council policy will not change.

"I have also had the opportunity to speak to Jane Hutt AM, our Assembly Member and the Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Business and Budget. She has spoken to both the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister and they too are determined that the land use should not be altered."

The Bosch plant is set for closure in 2011, and over the last 10 days it has become apparent that there will be no last minute reprieve.

(Continued on page 25)

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WHAT DID CASE COST TAXPAYER?

MR Maurice Kirk was bailed by Barry Magistrates, but was remanded on appeal by the police; he then spent eight months in jail.

From your report last week, it was very clear that the jury were sympathetic to him. Could the police and the CPS tell us just how much this farce has cost taxpayers?

I believe it costs around £300 per day to keep a person in jail, so the police appeal has cost us around £72,000.

Would anyone like to add to the total for all the other costs involved? I'm sure we would be able to take the total well over £100,000 with very little effort!

What a way to spend our money when there is so much else to be done!

David Kennett, Barry

Wider problem of Vale litter

IN response to I Hopkin's article on the litter problem throughout the Vale in last week's GEM, I am regularly saddened by the amount of litter on the roadsides, particularly the number of fast food litter items.

It never fails to annoy me that you can be miles from the nearest McDonalds and yet still find one of their drink cups nestled in the hedgerow.

McDonalds pay staff to litter pick around their restaurant sites but, if you look at the amount of litter created because of their products countrywide, shouldn't they really provide a much further-reaching clean-up service – rather than just in the immediate vicinity of their sites?

Carolyn Veal-Shaw, Boverton

(***See more letters on litter in the Vale on page 26***)

'Horse riders want it all'

I WOULDN'T normally take the time to respond to people's whinges, but Joanne McCarthy from Barry had me fuming (GEM letters last week).

Speaking as a dog owner, mother, motorcyclist and pedestrian, I've encountered many rather large deposits of horse waste in the middle of the road, pavements and now I have the added pleasure of it on the beach.

Riding a motorcycle is an experience, when one comes around a corner to find a horse poo in the middle of it; and when pushing children round in a buggy, one has to clean horse poo off the wheels.

If it is too hard to get off your horse to clean up, surely you aren't in control as much as you believe you are.

I am able to clean up within seconds of my dog fouling, and do so every time, before children or adults walk through it.

Isn't it time horse owners decided what they want – the road? the path? the bridle ways? the country walks ? the beach? It seems to me they want it all.

Rachael Davies, Rhoose

(*See more readers' letters on this subject on page 26*)

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THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

VALE COUNCIL PLEDGE OVER THAT BOSCH LAND

I FELT that I should write to reassure local people within the Peterston-super-Ely Ward that there is no question of the 'Bosch site' becoming a 'residential development' and or 'retail park'.

The current situation is quite clear. Bosch occupies around 33 acres and has had 'outline planning consent' for the development of around a further 131 acres for 'industrial purposes' since 1989.

As such, at any time during the last 20 years, Bosch could have submitted a planning application for 'detailed consent' for the consideration of the Vale of Glamorgan Council planning committee.

The potential use of these 131 acres is clearly identified in the council's Unitary Development Plan as land for employment purposes.

Furthermore, there is a specific policy in the plan protecting such land for employment use, which excludes both residential and retail use. I have spoken to the Leader of the council, Coun Gordon Kemp, and he is adamant that 'council policy' will not change.

I have also had the opportunity to speak to Jane Hutt AM, our Assembly Member and the Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Business and Budget.

She has spoken to both the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister and they, too, are determined that the land use should not be altered.

I do hope that this reassures local people and that they are aware that we all take their quite understandable concerns most seriously.

Coun Rhodri Traherne,
(***Peterston-super-Ely ward member and cabinet member for economic development and regeneration***)

Walking is so good for you!

MAY I, through your excellent newspaper, send this message to the people of the Vale of Glamorgan...

Walk out of your house every morning (*if the weather is good*), wherever you live and walk for 20 minutes along your street and back home.

In the afternoon, repeat the walk for 20 or 40 minutes, or longer if you feel you can do it.

After one week, you will walk so much better and you will enjoy the experience.

Cars would be used only to carry you to beaches or country parks, morning and afternoon.

The local council should upgrade all footpaths and walking places, and all walks in the Vale of Glamorgan should be signposted!

Robert G Dyke, Barry

Taking a vote to the extreme...

WHEN assessing the functionality of any proposed new system, it is useful to examine how it would function in a fairly extreme state.

I imagine three candidates from history that I need to rank in order of preference: Churchill, Hitler and Stalin. If, to my horror, the election shows that either of the two mass murderers has been elected by the alternative vote system, I will have to think to myself, and will be told by the politicians – "Well, you voted for him!"

I conclude that the system is a total nonsense. The tired, jaded Mr Brown has come up with a dreadful idea yet again and proved conclusively that he is incapable of seeing any further than the end of his nose

Malcolm Roberts, Trerhyngyll

WRITE IN!
We welcome your views – send them to Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL or email ***ggem@internet-today.co.uk***

GEM winner's thank you

I RECENTLY won two tickets in a GEM competition for the Holiday On Ice show in Cardiff.

I attended the show on Tuesday with a friend, and what a spectacular show it was!

We thoroughly enjoyed our evening, thanks to The GEM.

I love doing the competitions.

A Baxter, St Athan

Pensioners' party

THE committee and members of Llantwit Major Pensioners Club would like to thank Coun Gwyn John for his very kind donation to our New Year party which took place on February 2, as it was postponed from January. The party was a great success.

Mr Wilf Cole
(Secretary Llantwit Major Pensioners Club)

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL FEBRUARY 25)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
18 Thur	08.46	9.4	20.59	9.2
19 Fri	09.14	9.1	21.29	8.8
20 Sat	09.46	8.8	22.07	8.5
21 Sun	10.25	8.5	22.46	8.2
22 Mon	11.09	7.9	23.39	7.6
23 Tues			12.31	7.5
24 Wed	01.11	7.5	14.09	7.6
25 Thur	02.52	7.9	15.36	8.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide tablespecific to their location.

USEFUL VALE INFORMATION

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111
(Emergency number 999)
COASTGUARD 01792 366534
FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188
HELPLINES
Alcohol and drugs:
Drinkline **0800 9178282**
National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
VALE WOMEN'S AID 01446 744755
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
Mental Health Helpline:
Freephone **0800 132 737**
MIND in the Vale of Glamorgan
01446 730792 or www.mindinthevale.org.uk
CHILDLINE 0800 1111 - www.childline.org.uk
Rape Crisis Centre 08451 221331.
RSPCA 0300 123 0744. MIND 01446 746191.
AIDS helplines 0800 567123.
Child abuse – NSPCC 0808 800 5000.
Alcoholics Anonymous – (24 hours) 0845 7697555.
Drug Aid (24 hours) 02920 881000.
Inroads Drugs Project – 42, Holton Road, Barry. 01446 404040.
Vale Victim & Witness Support - Barry Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry CF63 4SX. 01446 730704.

MP & AM's SURGERY TIMES

To make a surgery appointment with John Smith MP, contact the constituency office (01446) 743769. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

CITIZENS' ADVICE

At 119 Broad Street, Barry. Drop in Mon-Fri (not Weds) 9.30am - 4.30am (Wed 11am-6pm); at Llantwit Major Youth Centre, Station Road 9.30am - 11.30am Mon and Fri. Telephone advice 0845 120 3756. *Further information www.adviceguide.org.uk*

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police - Gladstone Road, Barry; for normal service 01446 734451; in emergency 999. Fire - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Pontyclun 01443 232000; in emergency 999. Coastguard - Regional Office, Swansea 01792 366534; in emergency 999.

Gas - Gas emergency number 0800 111999.

Electricity - Emergency 0800 0520400; Water - Emergency 0800 052 0130; supply 0800 0520130.

Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre - Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry; hours of opening for telephone enquiries - Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-5pm; Friday 8.30am-4.30pm on 01446 700111. For personal visits, Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm. Friday 9am-4pm. Recycling Hotline, 01446 700111.

To report a fly tipping incident - 01446 700111.

HOSPITALS

The Barry Hospital - visiting 2pm-8pm each day, 01446 704000. Llandough - Wards have individual visiting times. For details call 029 2071 1711. Princess of Wales - 01656 752752/668090.

For Out Of Hours Chemists, call the Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board on 02920 350600, or NHS Direct Wales on 0845 4647.

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MULTI-CULTURAL WEEK TAKES OFF WITH A BIG BANG AT YSGOL IOLO!

PUPILS at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg in Cowbridge were treated to a day of African dance, singing and drumming lessons last week.

Idrissa Camarra visited the school and began multicultural week with a traditional African assembly, and continued the day conducting lessons in dance and drumming.

Children in all classes studied the cultures of various countries, making masks, listening to stories originating from third world countries and evaluating and creating music.

Children in year-6 swapped places with children from Mount Stuart school, Cardiff Bay. The children loved this experience and were able to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about religions and cultures, while making new friends!

Children across the school created craft artefacts, including masks from junk materials, and pupils in the reception class had the opportunity to visit Riverview Chinese restaurant eating Oriental food and learning about ancient Chinese traditions.

Teacher Alun Roberts commented: "This has been a wonderful opportunity for all pupils in the school, who have learnt that they are able to embrace other children from different cultural backgrounds."

During the swap-over day, Mr Roberts explained that: "Seeing all children take part in Welsh folk dancing was certainly a highlight; the children loved the experience and were able to learn and appreciate our Welsh heritage."

Headteacher Dylan Evans, added: "This has turned into an annual event and it's growing each year. The links with the community are essential and the week has enabled children to accept and promote ethnic cultures. I would like to thank all visitors and staff for working so hard in providing such valuable experiences for the children."

Mr Evans also extended his appreciation to all children and parents for their generosity towards the Haiti Appeal. The school raised a staggering £950!

RIGHT: Pupils follow the African beat.

A taste of Chinese cuisine.

School project wins plaudits in Cowbridge

THE £21.5m redevelopment project at Cowbridge Comprehensive School has has been recognised by Constructing Excellence Wales – umbrella organisation for the construction industry.

The project is expected to be completed by September and involves, the entire school being located on one site at Aberthin Road.

Vale Council operational manager (property services) Jane Wade said: "The council is delighted that the development has been recognised as an exemplar project demonstrating best practice in procurement and construction and the commitment of all participants to the council's key objectives of delivering a quality project on time and within budget."

Following an on-site review and presentation the project was assessed and accepted as a 'demonstration project' by the Constructing Excellence National Board in London.

Margaret Evans, head teacher at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, said: "This is a very challenging project for the school and for the contractors.

"However, the close collaboration and the trust which has developed between all members of the project team means that the staff and governors of the school are very confident that from September 2010, we will have school premises and facilities which will be a source of pride for our pupils, parents and the wider community."

Members hear talk on Air Ambulance

YSTRADOWEN AND DISTRICT WI

THE January meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather and worse, the New Year dinner, planned for January 13, was also cancelled for the same reason.

However, on February 3, members had their first meeting in 2010 which attracted a splendid turnout with some new members and several guests.

The speaker was Chris Roberts, co-ordinator of the Wales Air Ambulance, who is responsible for co-ordinating the pilots and paramedics, for fundraising and promoting this vital service – no small task!

Wales Air Ambulance is a registered charity and the costs for providing this service was £4 million in 2009 – and is expected to rise to £5 million this year.

With the exception of a contribution from the Welsh Assembly towards costs of providing the pilots, they are entirely reliant on fundraising, legacies and public donations.

The service was formed in 2001 with one helicopter based in south Wales. By 2008, there were three helicopters – a second based in Welshpool and the third in Caernarfon.

This has considerably reduced the time it takes to reach a patient. The service is entirely used in emergencies and is contacted through 999.

The helicopters can carry two patients, as well as the pilot and paramedic. They are designed to carry equipment required to deal with diverse injuries and provide maximum comfort for the patient. In 2008, they were required to upgrade the helicopters.

To provide such a vital service for the people of Wales is a huge achievement. It was an inspiring talk and members were very generous when a collection was made to support this dedicated team.

After the usual break for tea and a chat, president Val Owen chaired the business for the evening.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gardening talk

THE next meeting of Cowbridge Gardening Club will be on Thursday, February 26 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall, when the talk will be on 'Seed to harvest' by Mr Mel Saunders.

New members welcome.

Fairtrade Fortnight

CELEBRATE Fairtrade Fortnight at the Cowbridge Strictly Fairtrade Tea Dance at Cowbridge Town Hall at 1.30pm-4pm on Saturday, February 27.

Entrance £3 (includes one dainty fancy and cup of Fairtrade tea).

St John's sporting life spans half a century!

ST JOHN'S sporting tradition was celebrated with a visit from past pupil and former captain of the school's football team, Mr John Rosser, of Cowbridge.

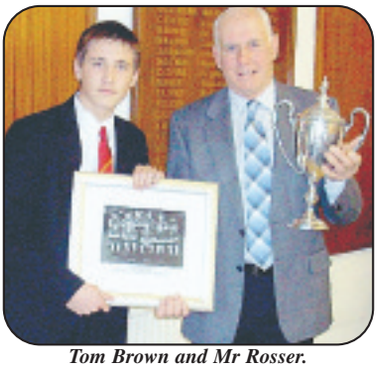
Mr Rosser attended St John's in the 1950s and presented the school with a framed photograph of the 1957 football team.

In that year, Mr Rosser also won the coveted Victor Ludorum cup (winner of the school sports day competition) and current football captain and 2009 Victor Ludorum, Tom Brown, received the photograph on behalf of the school.

Mr Rosser also told the pupils about another member of the school's 1957 football team, former England test cricketer Graham Roope.

Headmistress Mrs Clint, said: "The school was established almost 90 years ago so we have a thriving alumni network. We still maintain regular contact with several members who attended St John's in the 1940s. We are always delighted to be visited by past pupils of any age and to hear about their fond memories of their time at the school."

Mr John Rosser.



Tom Brown and Mr Rosser.

Bringing the Vale closer to nature

From Vale Biodiversity : Steve White, chair; borough ecologist Richard May; Coun Anthony Ernest; and assistant ecologist Elizabeth Stewart.

A NEW book on local wildlife – is available this month free to the public at Cowbridge and Llantwit Major libraries.

Entitled 'Wildlife in the Vale of Glamorgan', the book will be at Cowbridge from February 19, and at Llantwit from the 26th.

It is aimed at bringing residents and visitors closer to nature with the emphasis on conservation and protection of the Vale's beautiful countryside and rich wealth of flora and fauna.

On both dates, the Vale Council's assistant ecologist Elizabeth Stewart will be present (from 10am) to hand out copies and explain the work of the Local Biodiversity Partnership who officially launched the book at Barry Library in January

Printed in Welsh and English, the book is illustrated with paintings and photographs - revealing the colourful tapestry of Vale countryside with the Heritage Coast and patchwork of fields and woods.

A spokesman for the partnership said: "The booklet is a must for countrylovers. It really invites people to get out and enjoy the great outdoors – and appreciate the Vale's wonderful range of wildlife.

"It also explains the partnership's important conservation work – promoting the Local Biodiversity Action plan for the benefit of common and rare species and the special places where they grow and live."

RICHARD MARKS

Saint's day concert

A ST DAVID'S DAY charity concert will be held on Monday March 1 at 7.30pm in the United Reform Church in Cowbridge, to raise funds for the victims of the Haiti disaster.

As many will know, the current situation remains critically serious for those afflicted by the earthquake in that country.

The event in Cowbridge is to be organised by members of the church, who will offer home-made cawl and Welsh cakes to all those coming to the concert. The entertainment will be largely provided by local male voice choir 'Cor Meibion Y Machlud' who will sing a varied programme of much loved choral pieces, including 'Ar Lan y Mor', 'Speed your Journey' from the opera Nabucco, and Gwahoddiad.

The choir will be performing under the baton of their new musical director Eifion Davies.

Tickets are available from church members,and from David Barns Dry Cleaning and Keith Brown & Son.

RK

Charity shop needs volunteers

THE Oxfam shop in Cowbridge is on the look out for volunteers.

Shop manager Kavitha Singh told The GEM: "We need extra help throughout the wek, and the shop hours are 10am – 6pm, Monday to Saturday."

Anyone interested should contact Oxfam in Cowbridge on 01446 773019.

Read your GEM online at cowbridge-today.co.uk

COWBRIDGE YEAR-8 PUPILS TAKE TO FRENCH SKI SLOPES IN FINE STYLE

Group six.

Group four.

Group five.

Group two.

THE year-8 ski course was held for the 10th consecutive year at the St Gervais ski area in France in the third week of January.

A total of 80 pupils, accompanied by nine staff, travelled overnight to arrive at the hotel in Le Fayet on Saturday midday. A big thanks goes to Thomas Coaches of Rhondda once again for a smooth and safe journey.

This allowed everybody to relax before ski fitting in the late afternoon. For some of the staff this was home from home, as the quality of accommodation was excellent for a two-star hotel.

Ski fitting was complete by supper time and an early to bed evening for all travellers meant an early start at 7am the following morning.

All groups were ready to go at 8am after a hearty breakfast and packed lunches, made individually by the pupils.

Groups 1 and 2 were advanced, group 3 intermediate and groups 4-7 were beginners.

The beginners group met up with their French school ski instructor, Anniesse Luke Walter and staff, while groups 1-3 had ski guides Craig, Mick and John. Lessons were 9.30am – 12pm with lunch until 1pm, and then instructors were reversed.

On the first morning, the groups made tremendous progress in glorious sunshine and perfect skiing conditions, with Mont Blanc visible all the time.

The pattern for the week was set with skiing the priority, and all groups looked forward to the slalom at the end of the week.

The pupils' organisational skills were excellent in planning for the day ahead. They were always punctual and in the right place at all times.

This was transferred to their group skiing, where beginners were taking to the mountain by day four!

The evenings were full of entertainment after supper, with swimming in the hotel pool supervised by Mrs Kinsey-Ward and Miss Kath Rees, and indoor games organised by Mrs Julie Williams and Mr Paul Monger.

One evening, all the groups went to the famous ski resort of Chamonix to the indoor bowling arena. A quiz was held by Mr Gareth Evans, with each group competing against each other.

The maximum total was 64 and the lowest score was 56. This showed a wide range of knowledge from all, with the winning group scoring 59.

Madam Goncellin organised a Quasar evening at the local centre where everybody took part. The last evening was a presentation night with special awards and certificates.

A full week was had by all.

After supper each evening, the 'Smurf' award was presented to the funniest happening of the day and the 'Moo' award to the daftest happening of the day.

These were enjoyed by all, with thanks to former colleague Hugh Williams for co-ordinating the awards.

At the presentation evening, awards were given as follows:

Group 1 – Alex Guard.
Group 2 – Joanna Wilkins.
Group 3 – Matthew Roberts.
Group 4 – George Griffiths.
Group 5 – Harri Dowell-Bennett.
Group 6 – Angharad Poole.
Group 7 – Kayleigh Evans.

A special award was presented for the unlucky Jonathan Watkins, who broke his arm on the second day. Best skier of the group went to Nicky Griffiths, who was presented with the Pitman Trophy.

Beginners Slalom Boys:
Third Miles Jenkins (34.16secs)
Second Brad Rosser (33.06).
First Matthew Roberts (31.90)

Beginners Slalom Girls:
Third Niahm Gallagher (35.38).
Second Emmy Bevan (34.80).
First Annabel Curle (34.72).

Previous Skiers' best time of the day:
Joanna Wilkins (30.60).

A fantastic week was had by all, apart from some pupils who suffered with the dreaded bug, and five casualties who missed some days skiing due to their injuries.

A massive thank you also to Julie Williams, who herself got injured and was a great help around the hotel looking after the pupils.

Thanks also go to the following people:

The headteacher Margaret Evans for allowing the course to be run in school time, Ski Valais and Mr John Kerley the tour company, the French Ski School, ski guides, Thomas Coaches of Rhondda, school staff, Mrs Ceri Kinsey-Ward, Madam Goncellin, Mr Gareth Evans, Mr Paul Monger, Miss Kath Rees, Mrs Julie Williams.

Thanks also to our extended family Hugh Williams and Harriett Davies, Michel and all his staff at the hotel.

Let's hope that this course for year-8 will continue long into the future, with its massive educational benefits, and a life skill and memories for the rest of their lives.

GW

Group one.

Group three.

HUSBANDS ENTERTAIN THEIR LADIES AT A GLAMOUR AND SPARKLE CHARITY EVENING

PHOTOGRAPHS by IAN DIXON

A LADIES 'glamour and sparkle' evening was held on February 5, at Peterston Church Hall, in aid of the charity 'Women To Women'.

A very lively evening followed a champagne reception and a four-course dinner, served by husbands and offspring.

The packed house was then royally entertained by a 'Full Monty' type performance from yet another group of husbands.

The organiser, Jackie Brown, is supporting this charity by joining Robert Winston's 'women-only cycling challenge' through China, which aims to raise funds to improve the health of women and babies.

Chic look!

TV switchover starts on 3 March.

Questions? Call 08456 50 50 50 (English language), 08458 48 48 48 (Welsh language).

get set for digital

AM hits out at latest hospital waiting times

COMMENTING on the latest referral to treatment figures, Shadow Health and Social Services Minister, Andrew RT Davies AM is calling on the Assembly Government to ensure that all patients in Wales are treated within 26 weeks of being referred.

Access 2009 set a target that, by December 2009, no patients in Wales would wait more than 26 weeks from GP referral to treatment.

"However, the latest statistics reveal that of the 227,000 patients waiting to receive treatment, more than 1,600 have been waiting more than 26 weeks.

Vale-based resident and regional AM Andrew RT Davies said: "I am disappointed that these figures are still a reality for so many people.

"Back in October, I expressed concerns that the 26-week referral to treatment target would not be met, and unfortunately this has been confirmed with the release of these latest statistics.

"That more than 500 patients in Wales have been waiting nine months for treatment is a damning reflection of the failures of this Assembly Government.

"These are key targets, which the Assembly Government has thrown significant resources at achieving, yet despite the fact the Health Minister introduced 'tolerance levels' in August 2009, this is yet another example of Assembly Government goals being missed.

"The Minister must clarify how she intends to build NHS capacity in light of the financial pressures, given WAG's ideology rejecting the use of the private sector," Mr Davies insisted.

Flood relief funding snub 'disappointing'

Conservative candidate for the Vale, Alun Cairns, says he is "disappointed" by news that funding for a flood relief scheme in Boverton has been turned down by the Assembly.

The proposal to install a new culvert at Boverton was submitted by the Vale Council and Mr Cairns, who is also a regional AM, said he had been among those campaigning for the scheme to go ahead.

He will be asking Environment Minister Jane Davidson to explain her decision: "Apart from the houses in Boverton itself, which have been repeatedly flooded in the past 10 years, there is also a knock-on effect because work cannot be done either to alleviate problems at Ham Manor. No-one has recognised the significance of this scheme."

Mr Cairns revealed he would be meeting campaigners in Llantwit shortly to see what the next move should be.

However, he has welcomed news that funding has been found for flood relief work to be done at Cold Brook Road, Barry: "I am glad that at least one project from the Vale has been successful. This will be good news for the residents in that area," Mr Cairns commented.

Vale AM praises after school club

ABOVE Vale AM Jane Hutt visits the after school club.

VALE AM Jane Hutt visited Wenvoe to see the activities put on by the after school club.

She said: "It was great to join an after school club session at Gwenfo School, which is run by a voluntary committee of parents in partnership with the school. The club is extremely popular, with enjoyable activities on offer.

"This quality provision provides after-school childcare for working parents, with the family ethos of the school shining through."

The Tories' choice for Vale mayor

THE Conservative group on the Vale Council has chosen its candidates for Mayor and deputy.

The current deputy mayor, Coun Val Ellis of Cowbridge, has decided not to put her name forward for mayor and instead, the group has chosen Maureen Kelly Owen, of Penarth.

The new deputy mayor being proposed is the veteran Llantwit Major member John Clifford.

'Vale can lead climate battle'

THE VALE can lead the battle in Wales to combat climate change, says Alana Davies, Labour's parliamentary candidate.

"Climate change is undoubtedly one of the biggest threats we are facing. I believe the Vale has the potential to lead the fight here in Wales.

"If elected to Parliament, I will do my bit to make sure that the Vale takes full advantage of technologies that will help us avoid the most severe impacts of climate change and create jobs for local people.

"I want the Vale to be at the forefront of our transition from unabated coal to cleaner coal. That's why I support Aberthaw Power Station's proposal to lower the carbon intensity of coal generation in the UK by building what would be the UK's biggest carbon dioxide capture pilot project connected to a working power station," she added.

'How to pay for Plaid's pension'

THERE has been a lot of criticism directed at Plaid Cymru's proposal to increase the state pension since we announced the policy last month.

The three main UK parties have all rubbished our intention to lift out of poverty the millions of pensioners that are forced to choose between heating and eating every winter.

In their clamour to balance the books by cutting public expenditure, these parties have shown their unwillingness to do anything about the scandalous rise in excess winter deaths.

With predictions that fuel tariffs are set to rise over the next decade, it is a national crisis that could get much worse.

Plaid Cymru not only believes a pension rise is ethical but also achievable. At the moment £5.4 billion worth of pensioner credits go unclaimed in the UK.

The scrapping of Trident and the watered-down ID card policy would more than pay for the first phase for those aged 80 and over.

In time, the pension rise could be rolled out to those aged 65 and over through a fair reform of the tax and benefits system so that those who can afford it, pay more.

We realise this pension policy will cost at a time when the budget deficit is at an historic high but we believe the most vulnerable in society should not be made to pay for the actions of a greedy few who have been bailed out with billions of taxpayers' money. To sit back and do nothing would not only be irresponsible but callous.

Chris Franks
(Dinas Powys south Wales Central AM)

Plaid gives backing to local heart initiative

RESIDENTS are being urged to back a campaign to raise money for a national heart charity.

Regional AM Chris Franks dropped by at the British Heart Foundation shop in Barry to encourage locals to make a donation.

Mr Franks is also urging people to good care of themselves after suffering his own heart scare last year, which led to a pacemaker being fitted.

He said: "Coronary heart disease is the single largest cause of death in Wales and accounts for 6,000 deaths in this country every year.

"The Red for Heart initiative the charity is running will provide much-needed funds for their campaigning and educational work so I hope it is a huge success."

Regional AM Chris Franks at the British Heart Foundation shop in Barry.

'End the sand dredging' at Barry – call

CONCERN over sand erosion in Barry has led Vale Conservative candidate Alun Cairns to call for an end to dredging.

Mr Cairns, who has been a long-term opponent of sand dredging in the Bristol Channel, said that traders and residents had recently raised problems with sand erosion on the beach at Barry Island.

He said: "People are fed up with what's occurring and want some positive action.

"There is now a recognition in west Wales of the harm that dredging has done to beaches in Gower, and dredging there is moving away from the coast and further out into the channel."

Mr Cairns said that future dredging applications should either be turned down outright, or be re-located further out to sea to minimise damage done to beaches along the south Wales shoreline.

A full house at AGM

IT was 'full house' at the annual general meeting of Dinas Powys Conservatives, held on February 10 at 'Oakfield' Cross Common Road.

Opening the meeting, the chairman, Mr Andy Robertson, thanked branch members for all the help they had given during the past year, in particular Mr and Mrs Henry Stephens, who allowed their home to be used for meetings.

The branch officers are: Chairman, Mr Andy Robertson, secretary, Mr Henry Stephens and treasurer, Coun Robert Foxwell, together with Coun Mrs Margaret Hayley and Mrs Barbara Dean, were unanimously re-elected for the coming year.

Alun Cairns AM, Conservative parliamentary candidate for the Vale of Glamorgan, outlined plans for the general election campaign widely suggested to be held on May 6.

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Jane Hutt AM

Labour Assembly Member for the Vale of Glamorgan

If you would like to attend one of Jane's surgeries in the Vale, please contact the constituency office at:
115, High Street Barry, CF62 7DT
Tel: 01446 740981
Email: jane.hutt@wales.gov.uk

Next surgery: Saturday February 20th at Celtic Way Community Centre, Rhoose CF62 3FT from 10am-11am and also at The Gathering Place, Flemingston Road St Athan CF62 4JH from 11.30am to 12 noon.

www.janehutt.co.uk

NEWS FROM YSGOL BRO MORGANNWG

Honours for pupils

LEFT AND ABOVE: The year-9 pupils.

DOUBLE HONOURS

CONGRATULATIONS to two year-7 footballers Luke Swain from Penarth and Corey Price from Barry, who have both been selected for international honours.

Both boys from 7G, who play for Cardiff City under-12s, have been chosen as members of the national development squad and meet up for training with other youngsters during the half-term in Trefforest.

Youth Speaks

YOUNGER pupils from key stage three performed admirably in the recent Youth Speaks competition.

Pictured are Hawys Davies, Rhys James and Lewis Harrison from year-9, who came second in the junior competition, and Owen Young, Robin Tait and Leah Robinson from year-8 who also competed.

Headlands School students see 'democracy in action'

Headteacher Matthew Burns (centre) David Melding AM, Andrew RT Davies AM, and Coun Sophie Williams – with the Penarth pupils at the Senedd.

STUDENTS of Headlands School in Penarth last week visited the National Assembly and met with Welsh Conservative representatives, Coun Sophie Williams and AMs Andrew RT Davies and David Melding.

Sophie Williams and David Melding are also governors of the school. Speaking after the visit, Coun Sophie Williams said: "As a governor at the school, I was delighted to see both students and staff taking an interest in life at the Assembly.

"Students told me they had a very informative and enjoyable visit to the Assembly, which included a tour of the Senedd and the chamber itself."

Andrew Davies said: "It was a pleasure to welcome students from Headlands School to the National Assembly so they could see democracy in action.

"I believe it's very important for young people to engage in the political process and have a sound understanding of how they are a part of it."

David Melding added: "It was great to see young people taking such an interest in the Assembly, which after all is here to represent them. I hope that having visited Wales' democratic institution, students from Headlands School will feel encouraged to take part in the political process and contact their elected representatives to ensure that we are effectively representing their views and concerns."

Marie Curie challenge

MARIE CURIE is organising two treks to the top of Snowdon, the highest mountain in Wales.

They will take place on Sunday, June 6 and Saturday, October 2 with each raising money to help terminally ill cancer patients be cared for at home.

Each event will see 200 people participating.

To take part, call Jane Griffiths, community fundraising manager, on 01792 461435 or email jane.griffiths@mariecurie.org.uk

Penarth Computer Club – Constructing your website part 1

IF you have ever done any decorating you will know that the quality of the finished job depends largely on the preparation work before applying the wallpaper or the final coat of paint.

The colour scheme is a matter of personal preference and, frankly, it might not please everybody. The important thing is that the shelves stay on the wall and the paper is the right way up.

Several times during his talk, Chris stressed the same need for preparation when creating a website. The end result depends on the planning.

Thorough preparation can reduce the total time taken to achieve a good result.

We have all seen websites that look terrible and have moved on quickly to something more attractive. Even pretty sites can be difficult to use if they are not arranged sensibly. The beauty is only skin deep, so to speak.

Chris recommends pencil, paper, post-it notes and lots of thought. Why do you want to make it? Is it for business or to pursue a hobby? Who do you want to read it and what will they want to see? Distinguish between factual information and opinions. How can you make it attractive enough to encourage people to come again?

All these things can be jotted onto post-it notes and the notes shuffled around to play with the layout of the site to give a logical arrangement.

Only then should the computer come into use – initially to establish the storage area for the information to go onto the site.

At some point, you should browse the web to view sites that might inspire you to follow a particular 'look' and layout for yours.

If you are not artistic, you should note the colour combinations of background and text. (Readability varies enormously.) Note also that the words you use should suit the reader.

People from the other end of the country might struggle with local expressions. Those from further away even more so. Always be polite, of course.

The process of composing the site should be carried out on your own computer and tested exhaustively before being uploaded onto the web. For this part of the creation, Chris suggests using the FREE web authoring software Vnu. There is a download link on our developing website at www.penarthcomputerclub.co.uk where you can also look at the slides he displayed.

It is pretty basic at the moment, but should steadily improve as we learn from our mistakes.

Chris will be returning later in the year to answer any queries and to talk about the 'mechanics' of putting your site onto the web. The programme is also on the site.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 23, when Kevin will be reviewing how to keep your computer safe from interference. Visitors and new members always welcome.

For more information, telephone Howard on 029 2070 8439.

HOWARD DESMOND (Chairman)

Latest work reveals much older stonework

TOWN WALLS YIELD UP THEIR SECRETS

THE ancient history of Cowbridge could be coming to light, as a result of work to restore the town walls.

Although local historians are stressing that it is "early days yet", the latest find could paint a clearer picture of Cowbridge in the past.

Luke Miller, of the Cowbridge Charter Trust, told The GEM: "During work to lower the ground level within the south-west bastion, overlooking the Cattle Market, stonemason Kelvyn Dark and his team have uncovered fascinating remains of much older structures.

"Working under the supervision of archaeologist Jean-Yves Robic, the project manager from Cardiff Archaeological Consultants, they first disclosed the base of the front part of the upper works, which are of 18th.Century origin.

"Then, lower and within, they found the semi-circular top edge of what seems to be an older inner wall."

He stressed: "Much more work needs to be done, but Jean tentatively suggests that the centre may possibly be part of a mediaeval corner tower.

"The site is presently covered, pending a period of settled dry weather, before further investigation.

"Jean supervised the Charter Trust's archaeological survey in 2008, when three pits dug along the inner side of the south wall revealed that the original wall had sturdy foundations, 1.5 metres deep, of stepped dressed stone.

"During the long history, most of the wall has been robbed of its original stone, and what we see now is a mainly 18th Century rubble-stone rebuild on the original foundations."

Mr Miller said that the find might answer some long-debated questions:

"Some townspeople have doubted that these walls could ever have protected the town against the depredations of the native population to the north.

"Certainly they could not, but evidence is accumulating to demonstrate that the original walls were very different, serious defensive structures."

He added: "Anyone passing through the southgate arch can observe that it has a portcullis slot!"

ABOVE: The picture shows the bastion, with the revealed 18th Century wall-base at the front, and the older wall top within.
Photograph by permission of Cardiff Archaeological consultants.

Cowbridge cyclist Ruby wins UK national award

FOR the second time in a row talented Cowbridge cyclist Ruby Ellis has landed a national time trial award.

Ruby, aged 17, who competes for the Max Gear RT team, landed best junior time trialist in Britain, and was presented with her trophy at a glittering awards ceremony in Nottingham.

In 2008 Ruby scooped the same award, the first ever Welsh youngster to clinch it.

She told The GEM: "The time trialling was done over two 10 mile distances and two 25 mile distances. The trials were held in Neath, during August and September last year."

Over the full 70 miles, Ruby achieved an average speed of 21.745mph.

Ruby, a pupil at the town's comprehensive school, hopes to make a career in cycling competition.

"Hopefully, I'll become a professional, which would involve travelling to Europe and competing there."

Currently, Ruby trains with Ogmore Valley Wheelers and over weekends can cover up to 100 miles in training sessions.

National cycling time trials chairman, Mrs Sheila Hardy, presents Ruby with the Junior Best All Rounder Trophy for 2009

U3A talk about a druid's multi-skilled life story!

THE Duke of Wellington Hall was filled to capacity for the Cowbridge U3A meeting earlier this month.

The speaker, Dean Powell, gave a presentation on Dr William Price of Llantrisant.

With only one or two exceptions, most people present claimed some knowledge of Dr Price – although this was often limited to the fact that he had been responsible for establishing the practice of cremation.

Dr Price was a very flamboyant character, a Druid, and while he was not anti-Christian, he was anti-Non Conformist Church. The fact that he was a brilliant man is illustrated by the fact that he became a qualified surgeon by the age of 21. Dr Price died in 1902 at the age of 102.

Dean Powell's talk was both entertaining and informative and he completely held the attention of his audience. It was followed by a lively discussion.

In 2005, Mr Powell wrote Dr Price's biography and offered the audience the opportunity to purchase copies, which he would sign if required.

Such was the interest his talk created, that he sold all the copies he had with him.

Terry Dunsworth proposed a vote of thanks to Dean and this was enthusiastically supported by all present. **BC**

COMMUNITY NEWS

LLANBETHERY & LLANCARFAN

Your community correspondents are Sam & Patsie Smith on (01446) 751448

WHIST DRIVE

THE Llancarfan Society's next whist drive will be on Tuesday, February 23 (NOT Thursday, February 25 as shown in the last column) at 7.30pm at the village hall.

Admission is £1 and there will be prizes, a raffle and refreshments as usual.

Other dates are March 30, April 27, May 25, June 29, July 27, August 31, September 28, October 26, November 30 and December 28.

TRIBUTE EVENING

BY popular request, there will be a Neil Diamond tribute evening at the Village Hall on March 12.

Tickets will be available from Audrey Porter, Gwyn Plows or Nigel Booth. More details will be published in due course.

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OBITUARY - NINO HAYNES (1929-2010)

Proud Frenchwoman whose courage was inspiring

GENEVIEVE (Nino) Haynes, who spent many years of her married life in Llanblethian and Cowbridge, has died after a long fight against incurable cancer, aged 80.

She was a singularly gifted, modest and deeply valued member of the community. Nino and her husband, George Haynes, spent a large part of their 55 years together in their elegant home and garden in Llanblethian with its distinctly French influences.

Nino was born a Parisienne in 1929. Her life was colourful, creative and imaginative but fraught with danger in her formative years, for she was a mere 10-year-old when the invading German armies occupied her beloved capital city.

Her unusual nickname was bestowed on her by her mother who exclaimed "My little Nino" when she was born, using the Italian slang word for child or kid. The family had no Italian links, but the nickname stuck ever after.

Her family were heavily involved in the Resistance movement on the outbreak of World War Two. At one point her uncle, an air force colonel and head of a local Maquis, hid in her parents' home.

Early in the occupation, when the invaders were rounding up French and foreign citizens in their thousands, many of whom were never to be seen again, she was returning home one day from school to witness her father being led away in handcuffs by the Gestapo.

Nino Haynes, pictured with her granddaughter, Georgia.

He was taken to the Cherche Midi Prison, now demolished, where he was held and interrogated for several weeks – thankfully to be released later so that he could return to his contracting business.

In ways almost akin to the story of Oscar Schindler, Robert Loiseau had doctored the records of his employees so that most became described as unskilled labourers, rather than the skilled staff they actually were, thus sparing them from being deported to forced labour camps in Germany and Poland where so many perished in the pitiless conditions they were forced to endure.

It was an episode which became etched into Nino Haynes' memory – a dark and painful chapter that remained with her for the rest of her life.

The privations suffered by the citizens of Paris during the occupation make painful reading in the record of that period when the populace almost starved.

Nino recalled one Christmas when the family sat round the dinner table with only a tin of sardines to share among them.

After school, she obtained a degree in oriental languages and for a while pondered entering the colonial service but settled instead to go to Madrid, where she was employed as a model in a fashion house.

She moved to London in 1955 to improve her English and met her husband; their marriage of 55 years began a year later. At first, they spent 10 years working and living in Paris before George was moved to south Wales, setting up home in Cowbridge.

Nino Haynes was fiercely proud of her French origins, but rejoiced that her children held dual nationality and delighted equally that her son, Steven, was to later gain entrance to Rugby and Oxford.

Her sense of national loyalty led her, in 2003, to take on the editor of *The Times* after that paper published an article claiming that France had abandoned Poland to its fate in 1939, whereas the facts were that France had declared war on Germany one day earlier than Britain, giving the lie to such a theory.

At first apprehensive about the move to Wales, she was overjoyed after seeing how quickly she was accepted into the local community, where she made so many lifetime friendships.

She readily involved herself with numerous organisations, as well as actively supporting charities such as Save the Children and Tenovus.

She became involved in cultural life as a Friend of Friendless Churches, a Friend of the Victoria and Albert Museum and also the National Museum of Wales, with whom she ventured on organised trips in Britain and abroad.

Her incurable cancer was first diagnosed 17 years ago with a prognosis of four years as an outside expectancy of life. The rareness of her illness meant that there was only one place in the country offering palliative treatment, the Department of Nuclear Medicine at the Royal Free in London.

Later she expressed confidence and gratitude for the care she received in Velindre Hospital, Cardiff. Her fortitude and will to live gained her much admiration from doctors and medical staff alike.

She expressed two final wishes: to die at home and not alone – a desire she achieved in the early hours of February 5, surrounded by her loving family.

She is survived by her husband, her son Steven, her daughter Valerie and five grandchildren.

MICHAEL MEREDITH

The GEM joins in extending deepest sympathy to the family of Mrs Haynes.

Flower arranging

PRACTICAL flower arranging sessions will continue to be held in the Village Hall, St Hilary at 7pm on the last Friday of every month until May 28. Everyone welcome.

For further information, contact Lorraine on 01446 772713.

Alpha in St Hilary

THERE will be an introductory Alpha dinner party in St Hilary village hall at 7.15pm on March 25.

"Alpha is an opportunity to explore and discuss the Christian faith in a relaxed setting over 10 thought-provoking weekly sessions. It is designed primarily for people who aren't churchgoers and is open to everyone who would like to attend," said a spokesman.

For tickets/further information, contact Lynn and Bruce Rankine (01446 775717).

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OUR village postie, Peter, has been delivering our letters and parcels in the villages of Llangan, St Mary Hill and, until recently, to the village of Treoes, for the past 19 years.

Whatever the weather – rain, snow or ice – he has never failed. Peter is sometimes asked to take a message to someone in another village.

I remember, a few years ago when I had to change a wheel on my car, I had been unable to undo the wheel nuts when along came Peter Postie and within minutes, he had the wheel changed.

In the heat of a summer's day or the cold days of winter, our postie is always smiling!

COMMUNITY NEWS
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Art classes

THE art classes held in the Treoes village hall on Wednesday have proved successful.

Community centre

THE new committee at St Mary Hill-Llangan community centre will be holing a social evening on Saturday, February 20 at 7pm.

Admission is free.

St Canna's church

SATURDAY, February 20, Lent groups at Fferm Goch (11am-12.30pm).

February 28, Family service (11.15am).

Night at the races

IF you fancy a flutter, go to the Brynhill Golf Club, Barry, on Friday, March 5 at 7pm.

Tickets £10 each to include a buffet. For tickets and sponsorship of races and horses, contact the Vale Council Mayor's office on 01446 709301.

Proceeds will be in aid of the Alzheimers Society.

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418

THE local produce market is at the church hall, St Brides Major on Saturday, February 20, together with coffee and chat.

THE Ladies Thursday Club once again enjoyed a talk by Joyce James of Writers Circle, Bridgend, who told of her experiences when visiting Orlando.

THE Saturday coffee morning at the church hall on February 13 served special treats for St Valentine's Day.

ON Shrove Tuesday, there was a right royal evening at the church hall with music of various military bands and a tour (by slides) of Buckingham Palace and gardens.

THE Vale Council has again been informed off the on-going state of roads and pavements along the B4265, with straw being swept off bales by overhanging trees. Results of complaints by residents are being awaited.

THERE is a Gymanfa Ganu/Songs of Praise at All Saints church, Southerndown, on Sunday, February 21 with Cantorian Illtyd Choir, Clare Mathews and Allan Jones (both formerly of the BBC Chorus) featuring *Panis Angelicus* and *Pie Iesu*. This will be followed by a bring and share party. All welcome.

Wildlife conservation

THE Llantwit Major Horticultural Society will meet on February 24 at 7.30pm in Llantonian Hall, when the guest speaker is Richard Marks, a wildlife photographer and conservationist from Ewenny.

Richard's talk is entitled 'Wildlife Conservation in the Vale. Admission to the lecture (and refreshments) free. Members and prospective members warmly welcomed.

Volunteer drivers sought in Vale

VOLUNTEER drivers are being sought in the rural Vale for a new Greenlinks Community Transport Service minibus for wheelchair users.

For full details contact Graham Cartwright, community transport officer, on 01446 704870 to register your interest.

Helping you with digital television switchover

FROM March 3, the digital TV switchover will begin, with the analogue signal being shut off for good on March 31.

To ensure that you are ready for the switchover, you must be able to receive your television signal through any one of these ways; using a digital box (such as Freeview, Top Up TV or BT Vision); having a digital TV service, such as Sky, Freesat, Virgin Media or Tiscali TV, installed; or by purchasing a new television set with digital (Freeview or freesat) built in.

You may also need to change your recording equipment, and there are three types of digital TV recorders; a hard drive recorder; a DVD recorder; or a recorder that allows you to do both.

If you have any questions about the switchover and how it will affect you, you can visit the switchover website at www.digitaluk.co.uk, or by telephoning 08456 505050; a Welsh language helpline is available on 08458 484848.

If you are over 75 or disabled, the Switchover Help Scheme can help provide equipment and practical support needed; telephone 0800 40 85 900 or visit www.helpscheme.co.uk.

BITE OF THE WOLFMAN IS MORE LIKE A NIBBLE!

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

IN Hollywood, the word 'delay' more often than not means 'failure'; should a big-budget film suffer from the dreaded case of having its release date moved back, the first impression is of a studio trying to salvage a modest success from an impending disaster.

The Wolfman certainly fits this category, having already seen director Mark Romanek leave the project, due to 'artistic differences', and be replaced by *Jurassic Park 3* director Joe Johnson.

Given that the film was due to be released in the latter part of 2008, it finally makes its bow on the big screen.

Benicio Del Toro plays Lawrence Talbot, an actor who returns to his family home for a stilted confrontation with his estranged father (Anthony Hopkins), upon learning of his brother's disappearance and subsequent death at the hands of a mysterious creature.

Vowing to his brother's fiancée (Emily Blunt) that he will find whoever is responsible for his brother's death, Talbot is attacked by the mysterious creature, and as family secrets come out into the open, he begins to undergo some drastic changes...

Given the acting pedigree on offer, and a director who may not be 'A list' but is more than capable of delivering the goods when required, *The Wolfman* showed a lot of promise, delays or no delays.

However, the end product is one that is severely lacking, feeling like the amalgamation of many different visions, but without a strong enough through point to really grab (or should that be bite) the viewer.

In monster-movie lore, the Wolfman character is highly regarded, so any attempt to bring the story to modern day audiences would be burdened with an element of pressure in attempting to match the feel of the original, yet director Joe Johnson achieves something approximating that feeling.

Being somewhat of a B-movie director par excellence (his previous credits include *Jumanji* and *The Rocketeer*) he brings that schlocky sensibility here, giving the film a nice edge of tension and using all the tricks in the book to elicit scares.

The film is visually superb, the period attention detail wonderful, and Johnson lenses the film with a strong eye for genre convention.

What he does less successfully (though more as a result of the script) is create any real sequences of note. When the Wolfman finally lets loose, there is the predictable mixture of limbs being torn off and blood being splattered, but a London-set chase aside, there is little that truly gets the blood pumping, or uses the character particularly well.

He is given a cast that most directors would bite their own arm off for, but yet again a mixture of script and Johnson's reputation for visuals, means that while no-one embarrasses themselves, nobody really distinguishes themselves either.

Considering this was his pet project (he is listed as one of the film's producers), Benicio Del Toro is surprisingly muted in the lead role.

The actor brings a degree of class and quality to the majority of the work he is involved in, and the same can be said here, but the character of Talbot is only fitfully explored throughout the film.

There is a perfunctory mention of a troubled childhood, but the real meat of the story is the troubled relationship with his father, which really leaves you wanting more.

Similarly, we spend plenty of time waiting for Talbot's transformation, but when it comes, there is little insight into what is going on in his mind in the aftermath of his transformation as he contemplates the rising body count.

It's a small point, but one that would add depth to the film and it's a shame that Del Toro, as a good an actor as he is, isn't allowed the opportunity to do more with it.

While Anthony Hopkins attacks his character with all the relish of a starving man with a T-bone steak, his portrayal is too broad and exuberant for the tone of the film, feeling a little out of place and, at times, a little too silly for the character's good.

His sparring with Del Toro is easily the best parts of the film, yet there isn't enough of them to really bring out the best in the actor.

Emily Blunt does no harm to her burgeoning reputation with a pleasing, if a little one-note, performance as the woman who finds herself falling for Talbot, while Hugo Weaving turns in a superb cameo as the detective investigating the spate of murders; with a raised eyebrow here, he plays it with a twinkle in his eye and the performance is all the better for it.

All the hard work from Johnson and the cast, however, is undone by a script that has two credited writers in Andrew Kevin Walker and David Self, yet has the fingerprints of at least half a dozen more all over it.

Given such tonally uneven material, a family drama infused with blood and guts for the less-than-discerning horror fan, it is little wonder that *The Wolfman* finds itself floundering, and the murky story arcs and lack of depth simply add to the film's woes. It shows potential in places, but ultimately this a film that is severely lacking in bite!

VERDICT – A weak mish-mash of a film that is testament to the theory that too many cooks spoil a broth, *The Wolfman* is somewhat of a letdown.

The direction and performances only really fizz intermittently, and while it captures the tone of the genre well, it doesn't work when all put together. *Poor.*

GWYNFA CAMERA CLUB NEWS

Maximum scores for local photographers in tourney

TWO Gwynfa Camera Club photographers achieved maximum scores of 20 points in the Vale Photographic Print Challenge for both of their entries.

They were 'De Schell Molen Damme' by Gary Were; and 'Intimidation' by Alec Stewart. A special award was also made to Alec for the best colour print entry in the competition.

Seven camera clubs including Barry, Bridgend, Gwynfa (Llantrisant), Merthyr Tydfil, Pyle and Porthcawl, Rhondda, and the Vale, were invited to compete in a seven-way annual photographic challenge.

Each club submitted eight entries. The chosen prints were already winners or highly-graded entries from home club in-house competitions.

The judge was Tony Byram.

The overall winners were first, Bridgend Camera Club with 138 points.

Gwynfa Camera Club were a very close second place, with 137 points.

In third place. 13 points adrift, were Rhondda Camera Club with 124 points.

The contest this year was hosted by The Vale Camera Club and was held at the Community Hall, Ystradowen.

Gwynfa exhibition

The Gwynfa Camera Club annual photographic print exhibition will be held at the Church Village Life Long Learning Centre, Church Village, near Pontypridd from March 1 to March 18.

There will be free admission from 9am-6pm daily.

Once the switch to digital TV begins on Wednesday 3 March you'll need to re-tune (or install) your Freeview TV or box.* Then on 31 March you'll need to re-tune again to complete switchover. Satellite and cable TV viewers will not be affected.

It's good practice to re-tune from time to time to carry on viewing all available channels.

For a simple guide to re-tuning, call us on 08456 50 50 50 (English language) or 08458 48 48 48 (Welsh language) or visit digitaluk.co.uk/retuning

get set for digital

*Includes BT Vision or Top Up TV equipment.
Calls are free for BT customers within inclusive calling plans. Call charges from other providers may vary.

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Marie Curie Cancer Care
Devoted to Life

The GEM is making a donation to Marie Curie Cancer Care as a result of this advertisement feature

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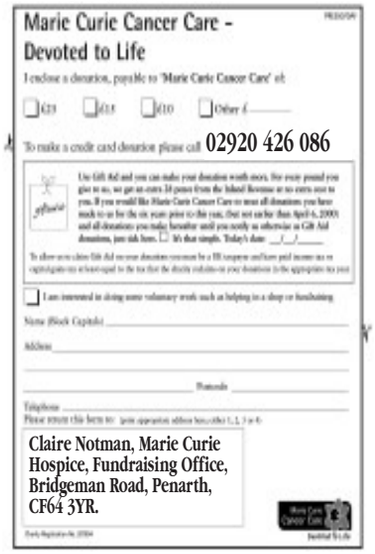
AN array of well known faces have come together to support Marie Curie Cancer Care's Great Daffodil Appeal this year.

Stephen Fry, Tony Blackburn, Lynda Bellingham, Jon Culshaw, Alison Steadman, and Sir Ranulph Fiennes are among the stars who feature in a short video calling on people to volunteer to raise funds to provide nursing care for terminally ill people in their own homes.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Claire Notman, Marie Curie Hospice, Fundraising Office, Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR.

The Marie Curie video, which can be viewed online at *http://www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil/*, has been made by the charity to help recruit 20,000 volunteer collectors for its 2010 Great Daffodil Appeal.

Actor Stephen Mangan, one of the people featured in the video, has personal reasons for supporting the Great Daffodil Appeal.

Both of Stephen's parents died from cancer and were cared for at home by Marie Curie Nurses.

Stephen, best known for his performances in Green Wing and Channel Four's Free Agents, said: "Most terminally ill people want to be cared for at home, surrounded by their loved ones. Marie Curie Nurses working across the UK make this possible because they provide care, totally free to patients in their own homes.

"I'm proud to be supporting the appeal in any way I can and hope the video encourages everyone to give an hour of their time to help, because it really could help someone in their final hours."

Each March the charity encourages everyone in the UK to give a donation in return for a daffodil to wear in support of Marie Curie nurses.

All money raised will help Marie Curie Cancer Care provide free nursing care for people with cancer and other terminal illnesses in their own homes and the charity's hospices.

Marie Curie Cancer Care urgently needs to recruit 20,000 volunteer collectors to help its Great Daffodil Appeal.

The charity is asking for volunteer collectors to give an hour of their time during the Great Daffodil Appeal this February and March to help someone in their final hours.

If you have more time available, there are other ways to get involved. For example, the charity needs help organising the collections, or you could volunteer at your local fundraising office or distributing daffodil boxes to local supporters.

To volunteer for the Great Daffodil Appeal and help Marie Curie Cancer Care provide care for terminally ill people and support for their loved ones, visit *www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil/* or call the Daffodil Hotline on 0845 601 3107.

To get help from the Marie Curie Nursing Service, talk to your GP, district nurse or discharge nurse. For more information about Marie Curie Cancer Care, please visit www.mariecurie.org.uk

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As Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council it gives me great pleasure to support
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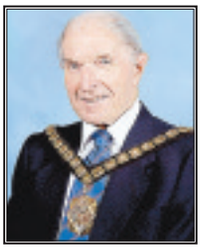

Y CYNGHORYDD EMLYN WILLIAMS
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Back to the days of 'Greensleeves' and the court of King Henry for Y Bont Faen pupils

THE youngest pupils at Y Bont Faen Primary School recently had the chance to travel back in time to the days of Henry VIII.

The reception class at the school went back to medieval times with music and entertainment, followed by a delicious medieval banquet.

In a role play castle the children learned about how people lived in medieval times.

They learned about what they ate, how they dressed, how they entertained themselves and the musical instruments used when making their music.

In fact, the children made their own musical instruments and played along when they heard their instrument on the CD.

The children also danced to music played by older children in the school hall, as well as to various pieces that they might have heard in those days.

To finish the day, the children ate their homemade bread and chicken drumsticks.

Great fun really was had by all!

The Y Bont Faen medieval band tunes up!

The children made their own bread.

Zoe cooks up a winning feast to wow a local judge - *Restaurateur praises young chefs' skills*

THE Llantwit Major Comprehensive School last week played host to the Cowbridge Rotary Young Chef competition.

Young people from Llantwit and Cowbridge schools battled it out under the watchful eye of leading local restaurateur, Andrew Huddart, of Huddart's Restaurant in Cowbridge.

Each of the six competitors had two hours to prepare and serve a three course meal for two. Zoe Davies from the Llantwit school prepared breaded spicy mushrooms with garlic dipping sauce, followed by chicken curry with naan bread and rice and a delicious Philadelphia white chocolate cheesecake.

James Freeman from Cowbridge cooked up a starter featuring home made pancakes, duck breast with duck sauce garnished with fresh spring onions and cucumber.

The winner, Zoe Roberts with Andrew Huddart and club president, Colin Jones.

The oriental theme continued in James' main course of chow mein egg fried noodles with chicken, prawns, bean sprouts, mangetout and carrots.

His final dish was a combination of homemade sesame brandy snaps with lychee and mango.

Jessica Nicholson from the Llantwit school delivered the flavours of Italy, with an Insalata Triclore starter, an imaginative dish themed on the Italian flag in mozzarella, tomato and avocado. Her main course, Piatto Principale, was a salmon, ricotta, red onion and sage ravioli in red pepper and cream sauce.

To finish, Jessica prepared a light tiramisu with amaretti biscuits and mascarpone cream.

Cowbridge pupil, Scott Bevan's starter was a thick rustic tomato soup which he followed with pancetta ham-wrapped free range organic chicken breast, stuffed with philadelphia cheese and herbs in a white wine sauce, served with roasted chipped potatoes and fresh steamed vegetables.

Lemon cheesecake and kiwi fruit dressing completed his offering.

Runner-up, Hari Trotman from Cowbridge, presented the judge with traditional Welsh fare. He started with leek and potato soup followed by honey and cider roasted Welsh lamb, concluding with a delicious Baileys and mint cheesecake.

The winner, Llantwit pupil, Zoe Roberts, particularly impressed Andrew Huddart with the range of cooking skills she used to present a ribollita soup in home-baked granary bread bowls. This was followed by a chicken, feta and filo pastry main course, served with sweet potato mash and green beans.

Zoe's melt-in-the-middle chocolate pudding with home-made raspberry ice cream and fresh raspberries delivered a great combination of flavours.

Zoe will go on to the Rotary Zone final and the chance of a place in the national Rotary Young Chef Competition, to be held in London later this year.

Judging the competition, Andrew Huddart commented on the high standard achieved by all competitors and the range of well-prepared and presented side dishes of sauces and vegetables that competitors produced with each course.

In addition to judging the competition, Huddart's Restaurant funded all the ingredients to the tune of £150. Arthur John and Co donated the prizes.

In presenting the prizes, the Cowbridge Rotary president, Colin Jones, congratulated the young people on their creativity and thanked Huddart's and Arthur John for their generous sponsorship of the event. **AL**

'Schools should practice what they preach...'

'Appalling' litter problem near comprehensive

I WOULD like to wholeheartedly agree with the comments made by I Hopkins in The GEM on February 11 concerning the appalling litter situation in the Vale of Glamorgan.

I travel daily between Aberthin and Cowbridge and am continually amazed and appalled by the litter in the vicinity of the comprehensive school.

Are the staff and pupils blind to this problem?

Surely in these times when care for the environment appears to be on everyone's agenda, schools of all places, should be practicing what they preach? Are there no litter bins available at the school?

I would like to also point out the growing problem of blue plastic dog poo-bags. Increasingly, dog owners are throwing these bags, with contents, into hedges and the undergrowth, adding to the problem.

Some also throw them over my own garden wall!. (The point of these bags is to take them home and dispose of them properly).

Come on residents of the Vale... Be proud of our beautiful surroundings and take your litter home with you!

E George, Aberthin

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(Left to right) Kathryn Johnston, groomer, Alison Moya, owner, and Jo Greenough, office manager.

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MAKING AND CHANGING YOUR WILL

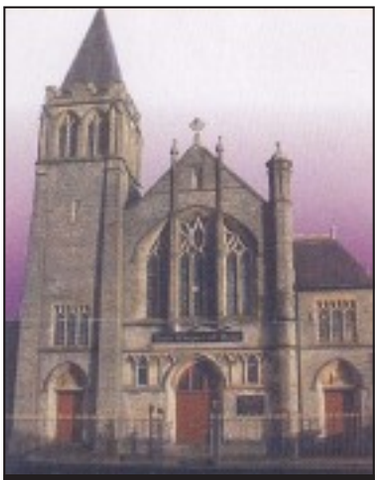
MANY people fail to make a will, assuming their estate will go to their husband or wife when they die.

However, those dying without a will find in many cases that their money goes partly to their husband or wife, and partly to other relatives, as determined by intestacy law.

This many not be what they expected or wished. It is therefore sensible, in most cases, to set out your wishes in advance by making a will.

In addition, if you live with a partner and are not married, or in a 'civil partnership' with them, they have no rights to inherit – although they may be able to bring a claim under the Inheritance, Provision for Family and Dependants Act, if you were supporting them.

For further information, contact Larby Williams Solicitors on 01446 775535.



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The plan allows you to make all the decisions and takes away any financial obligations from your next of kin.

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SEAFRESH was established in September 1996, and has gone from strength-to-strength.

We are pleased to introduce a variety of fine wines, initially with our French selection, extending to other regions in the near future.

The concept is simple – quality food delivered directly to your home. The choice is wide and varied, and always of the very highest quality!

You can browse through our menu, where you will find descriptions together with some photographs to order online.

We are constantly building and developing our delivery rounds. We do this by way of knocking your door, referrals from our many satisfied customers and people using the internet.

So, if you open the door to a smiling Seafresh distributor, take a look at our range. You will be impressed!

Our distributor will be happy to bring a selection of food into your home. You can see before you buy.

You will find that because our food is mainly 'individually Quick Frozen', the shelf life is extended (in most cases up to 12 months).

We revisit our customers every 10-12 weeks, unless more frequent visits are requested.

For more details, telephone 01656 744110, or check on the website: www.seafreshltd.co.uk

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angels care
Our 2010 goal is to introduce 50 people over the age of 50 to a new career in caring.

Thinking of a new career..?

ANGELS Care Services have set themselves a goal for 2010 – to introduce 50 people over the age of 50 to a new career in caring.

Our valued team of 65 carers are a very special group of people who enjoy caring for others, and helping them to lead an independent life.

Clients value the visits and friendship of our carers, most of whom worked outside the care sector before joining Angels.

Many now say they've found their true calling, having discovered personal fulfilment in caring for others.

To maintain the high quality of care we provide, new carers are fully trained and then supported through the study of appropriate NVQ qualifications.

If you would be interested in joining our team, or have any questions, why not visit www.AngelsCareServices.com or call Alison on 01446 760010.

Here's how to get around the house – *with a (stair) lift from Dolphin*

RECLINER chairs, wheelchairs, scooters, bath lifters, walking stocks, daily living aids...

Dolphin Independent Living has its range on show at its mobility showroom.

During the past nine years, Dolphin Lifts (South Wales) Ltd has gained a strong client base through reliable, friendly service and experienced engineers.

The showroom is a natural progression for Dolphin, giving the opportunity to provide the public with daily living aids, from kitchen utensils to scooters, all with the service you would expect from us.

If you have any questions, would like to receive a brochure, or to book an appointment, call our freephone number 0800 093 2293; or contact j.pearce@dolphin-lifts.co.uk.

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Glamorgan GEM Websites
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Finding what benefit you are entitled to

THE Vale of Glamorgan Council's benefit department has helped thousands of people pay their rent and council tax bills.

With recent changes allowing child benefit payments to be disregarded from the calculation of how much benefit a family can receive, even more people are now entitled to financial assistance.

With further 'disregards' for working people, more people than ever are entitled to benefit and are missing out by not claiming.

On Thursday, March 4 at The Hub, Barry (10am-3pm), the benefits department will be hosting 'Money Day'

JobCentre Plus, the Citizens Advice Bureau, housing associations and others will be brought together to provide a free financial information service for all Vale residents.

For further information about the day, or about claiming benefit, please telephone the benefits department on 01446 709244.

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MONEY DAY Thursday March 4
are YOUR finances being SQUEEZED?
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The Hub, YMCA, Gladstone Road, Barry
Open from 10am - 3pm
Get advice from:
Housing Benefit, Citizen's Advice,
Department of Work & Pensions,
Age Concern,
Housing Associations,
Health Through Warmth
and many more...
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Phone 01446 709244 • email benefits@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
The Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Care & Repair is your local handy helper

CARE & REPAIR in the Vale assists older home-owners to have work carried out to their homes, from small handyperson jobs such as dripping taps or leaks, to larger adaptation works or repairs.

Our services are all funded by the Welsh Assembly Government, Newydd Housing Association or the Vale Council.

Please give us a ring if you feel we could assist you to make your home safer, warmer, easier to manage, or adapted to your needs, or if you would just like further information.

Our telephone number if 01446 704308.

Care & Repair in the Vale

helps older home owners to have repairs and adaptations carried out to their homes, to enable them to remain living there in comfort and safety.

Care & Repair in the Vale,
121 Broad St.,
Barry, CF62 7AL
Telephone 01446 704308

www.newydd.co.uk

Care & Repair in the Vale is a service provided by Newydd Housing Association (1974) Ltd., with funding support from the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the National Assembly for Wales.

The benefits of owning a cat

HAVE you ever considered an older cat, instead of a kitten as a companion?

Medical research has indicated stroking a cat can relieve stress and lower blood pressure.

We have a number of cats looking for loving homes, aged from six months to eight years old.

Even a cat of eight years would have approximately another 10 years of life, which might suit a much older person and give loving companionship.

All our cats have been neutered and microchipped.

Some are a little nervous as they are used to older people who might have had to give them up to go into homes themselves, leaving their companion behind.

These would adapt to a quiet, loving home environment.

Currently we have an abundance of cats who are desperately in need of a new family or people to care for them.

For an appointment or further information, please telephone Maesteg Animal Welfare Society on 01656 721496 or 01656 653456.

Please leave a message on our answer-phone if we are not available.

Any donations, bric-a-brac, or any unwanted items, please call our shop on 01656 738977 or 01656 721496.

MAESTEG ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY

Kittens, young and older cats – All needing a new family!

All cats have been neutered and microchipped

Tel: (01656) 721496

All our work is funded by Charity Shops. We sell bric-a-brac, books, clothes and all items of furniture and we can collect.

Tel: 01656 737827 or 01656 653456
www.maesteganimalrescue.co.uk

Anybody who wants clothes collecting, please contact the above telephone numbers

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

MAKING LIFE EASIER...

Time to plan ahead with PASSMORES – make a 'Lasting Power of Attorney'

LAWYERS around Wales and England are running a national 'Make a Lasting Power of Attorney' campaign to encourage all people to plan ahead to avoid problems if they later lose mental capacity.

It means making a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) on the new version of the forms, which came into force in October 2009.

A Lasting Power of Attorney is a legal document that enables one person to make decisions on behalf of another.

There are two types of LPA: financial and welfare. Financial LPAs enable a person to act on behalf of another if, for example, they are ill or disabled and cannot act for themselves.

A welfare LPA enables a person to act on behalf of another if that person does not have the mental capacity to act for themselves, for example, in the case of a severe stroke.

Without an LPA, it may be necessary for family members to apply to the Court of Protection for authority. This can be a distressing and lengthy process and is far more expensive than making an LPA.

Once all parties have signed the LPA, they must then be registered with the Office of the Public Guardian before they can be used.

Carli Evans of Passmores Solicitors and a member of Solicitors for the Elderly is actively encouraging all people to plan ahead and make Lasting Powers of Attorneys.

People wishing to discuss their requirements, should contact Carli Evans to arrange a suitable no obligation appointment on 01446 721000, or by email ce@passmores.com

PASSMORES

PASSMORES SOLICITORS

MAKE AN LPA NOW
– Can you afford not to?

Can you imagine a situation where you or a member of your family is no longer able to make decisions? Frightening isn't it?

A Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) is a legal document, that enables one person to make decisions on behalf of another.

Carli Evans, a member of Solicitors for the Elderly is inviting you to attend a no obligation appointment to find out more.

For more information please call:
Carli Evans on 01446 721000
or by email ce@passmores.com.

SOLICITORS FOR THE ELDERLY

21 Tynewydd Road, Barry, CF62 8HB

Redundancy need not ruin your career

BEING made redundant is never pleasant, but after more than 15 years with the same company, redundancy was particularly hard for Jane.

As for many people, Jane's redundancy wasn't a surprise but, nevertheless it was a major knock to her confidence.

Careers Wales gave Jane a grant towards retraining to help her move forward in her career.

She explained: "I was keen to get back into employment as soon as possible, and so my training needed to fit in with work commitments and my personal life.

"When I went into Pitman Training I immediately knew it was the right place for me."

Pitman Training in Cardiff is run by Leanne Waring. "Our method of learning is completely flexible and we aim to create a relaxed and non-threatening training environment," explained Leanne.

Jane is now working as a medical secretary in Cardiff. "Deciding to learn with Pitman Training was such a good decision. I feel like I can really progress now, because I have the right skills," she said.

For information on the range of courses on offer at Pitman Training in Cardiff, please call 02920 342020 or visit www.pitmancardiff.com.

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Have you been made redundant?
You may be entitled to £2500 ReAct funding.

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Maintenance problems? Why not Hire a Hubby!

THE idea of having someone you can rely on entering your property and taking care of all those odd jobs and maintenance problems is now a reality with Hire a Hubby professional handyman services.

From basic DIY and DI4Y to complete building and renovations, and all the other things you may not have the time or skills to do, can be undertaken with all workmanship guaranteed by the company.

All 'Hubbies' are security checked and carry picture ID on their business cards.

Jeff Preece is the Hubby working from Penarth and the surrounding area and would be delighted to give an obligation-free quotation.

For more information, contact 0800 111 4664 or info@hireahubby-group.com

Vic Hopkins comes up with an offer you can't refuse!

IF you are lucky enough to have retired, or know someone who qualifies as an OAP, then send them down to Vic Hopkins Butchers in High Street every Monday!

We are reintroducing our 10 per cent OAP discount. No points to collect, or cards to swipe – just 10 per cent off, no fuss, simple.

We are also in the process of building up a free delivery service throughout the Vale, so next time you call in, ask for details!

If you are on Facebook, you can check out our page, become a fan and we'll keep you updated on any offers: http://*www.facebook.com/home.php#/pages/Barry-United-Kingdom/Vic-Hopkins-And-Son-Family-Butchers-LTD/134005645889?ref=ts*

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Planning for the future

IN a climate of economic uncertainty, people are more focused on planning for a comfortable retirement, than worrying about making a will or inheritance tax planning.

This is an aspect that should not be ignored, as most of us would rather our assets go to our loved ones than to the taxman. It is estimated that 70 per cent of UK people have not made a will, despite the fact that individual wealth has reached its highest level over the past decade.

RTL Solicitors recommend taking advice to ensure your money ends up going exactly where you want.

Contact Shian Hughes at RTL solicitors, telephone 01656 665850.

Legal Guidance for the Elderly

rtl solicitors

We offer a comprehensive legal service for Elderly Care, including:

- Wills/Living Wills
- Inheritance Tax Planning
- Lasting Powers of Attorney
- Applications to the Court of Protection
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- Advice on Community Care Legislation
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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

MAKING LIFE EASIER...

JA Hughes – specialists in elderly client law

DUNCAN KENNEDY qualified in 1986 and specialises in elderly client law. He is a full member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners, Solicitors for the Elderly and the Law Society Probate Section.

Duncan heads the department which deals with all matters of wills, inheritance tax advice, probate, trusts, Lasting Powers of Attorney, Court of Protection matters and long term care funding.

With people tending to live longer, it is important that the right type of advice is available as we grow older to deal with the increasing amount of legislation in this field.

Whether that is making a will, requiring inheritance tax advice, dealing with your Lasting Power of Attorney, or advising on whether care fees should be funded, JA Hughes can help you through all the complexities.

In addition, JA Hughes deal with administration of estates from small to very large, and are able to give advice and assistance should someone have lost mental capacity.

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See our website www.homemasterplus.co.uk for a full listing of our services or call our no obligation freephone number.

Legal services tailored for help in later life

HAVE you considered planning for your future? Are you looking for peace of mind?

Gaskell and Walker Solicitors can help you achieve both these objectives with our wide range of legal services, tailored for clients to enjoy their later life.

We specialise in 'Lasting Powers of Attorney' for financial matters and personal welfare, and we have a specialist mental health department, so we are able to advise patients, both in the community and in hospital, about their legal rights.

If you have concerns about the validity of your will, or questions about your property title deeds that you need answered, we can complete a review for you and put your mind at rest.

Enjoying your retirement is simpler than you think – contact us today on 01446 662212 (Cowbridge) or 01656 653122 (Bridgend).

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Hearing Aid Solutions can provide an innovative service

A HEARING aid specialist has opened up a new outlet in a GP surgery in the Vale.

Hearing Aid Solutions already has 12 centres in Wales and has plans to make its services more accessible to customers in 13 GP surgeries across south Wales.

The company will be operating on an appointment-only basis at New Surgery, Heol-y-Groes in Pencoed, and Cowbridge & Western Vale Group Medical Practice at the Llantwit Major Clinic.

Managing director Martyn Scott, explained: "One of the main reasons for our expansion is because a lot of centres are too far away for people to reach.

"We wanted to make hearing advice and our services more accessible. GP surgeries are usually on a bus route or easy to get to and they are also familiar surroundings for many of our customers."

Mr Scott pointed out that as people got older, they were more likely to seek treatment.

"It's shocking but 40 per cent of people over 50 have some kind of hearing loss and this rises to more than 70 per cent of over-70s.

"We also know that people live with hearing difficulties for between 10 to 15 years before seeking help.

"We believe that our extended presence within surgeries will raise more awareness of hearing-related issues and encourage people to take advantage of our free hearing tests. We are also offering a free 30-day hearing trial for those who do need hearing aids, which is an extra benefit."

He added: "We know that more people would like more of the service that we offer and this is all about meeting that demand and making our expertise more readily available."

Hearing Aid Solutions is the only company in the UK to be awarded commendations in the European Audiologist of the Year in successive years 2008/2009.

It is the only practice in Wales to be recognised as a Centre of Excellence and is a member of the Association of Independent Hearing Healthcare Professionals.

Where can you find a quality hearing service?

If you, or a family member or friend are experiencing hearing difficulties and need local professional advice - look no further.

- **FREE** Hearing Tests
- **FREE** Demonstrations of the latest in digital technology
- **FREE** Pack of batteries when you bring your old hearing aid for a check up

Gareth Morris
RHAD FSHAA
Hearing Aid Audiologist

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Wales' premier hearing centres

" I'm so glad I have this aid. Mr Morris has been very helpful. I wish I could have had one years ago. Thank you so much. "
Mrs J Goddard (Barry)

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Centre of Excellence

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GP SURGERIES:

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Barry	0800 2321384	Caerphilly	0800 2321384
Llantwit Major	0800 2321384	Danescourt	0800 2321384

www.hearingaidsolutions.co.uk

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

MAKING LIFE EASIER...

Parkside House offers quality care and facilities

PARKSIDE House Residential Home for the Elderly is a fine Victorian building, set above the Esplanade at Penarth in its own pleasant grounds, with a sea view.

We have been established for 25 years and have maintained a very high standard of care throughout that time.

We offer comfortable rooms, some with en-suite bathrooms, a lift to all floors, a high proportion of staff to residents, excellent food and regular entertainment.

The home has a self-contained small unit that specialises in taking care of people who suffer from Alzheimer's. There is a coach house in the grounds which is ideal for people who want to maintain more independence but have all the security and facilities of Parkside to hand.

Our aim is to maintain the dignity of people who have become more vulnerable and provide a secure, comfortable quality of life in caring surroundings.

Telephone 029 2070 0236 for further information.

PARK SIDE HOUSE

RESIDENTIAL HOME FOR THE ELDERLY

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1 Park Road, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan CF64 3BD

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China can offer the trip of a lifetime!

FEBRUARY 14 saw the start of the Chinese New Year. Why not celebrate the Year of Golden Tiger, with a fantastic fully-inclusive escorted tour?

As a tourist destination, China has it all – Beijing with the magnificent Great Wall; the treasure-filled Forbidden City; awe-inspiring Terracotta Warriors of Xian; the mighty Yangtze River and the adorable giant pandas at Chengdu.

Wendy Wu's tours of China range in duration from 10 to 30 days, and include all flights, accommodation, all meals, departure taxes, current fuel surcharges, visas for UK passport holders, guides, domestic transportation, entrance fees and daily tours. Starting from just £1,490 per person!

If you book before February 28, you can save up to £200 per couple. Call us on 01446 713410 for further details.

TLC offers care throughout Vale and Cardiff

TLC Home Care Services is a long-established agency, providing care for elderly people and for adults with learning disabilities.

The company operates in Penarth, Barry, Dinas Powys, Cardiff, Rhoose, Cowbridge and across the whole of the Vale.

We provide round the clock care assistance for people in their own home, promoting independence and dignity, and bringing peace of mind to those needing care.

Our professionally-trained staff can provide personal care, day care, night care, domestic services, and prepare meals in your home.

We also take people out shopping, to collect pensions, or simply out and about for recreational activities.

For more information, feel free to phone or email. TLC Home Care Services, 029 2071 1099; or email care@tlc.co.uk

TLC

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Telephone: 029 20711099

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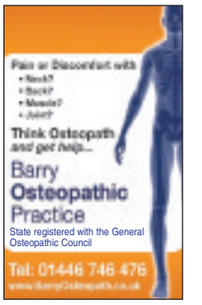
If you are looking to advertise in 43,000 newspapers, covering Penarth to Porthcawl and online, then call us on 01446 774484 or email - gemsales@internet-today.co.uk



Don't put off the task of making a Will

PLANNING for your future and that of your family is not something to put off until you are older.

It is not easy to contemplate life for others without you, but it will happen and making a will can avoid many problems for loved ones at an already difficult time.

We have a wealth of experience in this area of law. While we are able to draft wills which deal with complex tax affairs and advise on estate planning generally, we also prepare simple wills for clients whose main concern is the destination of their assets when they die.

For information and further details, please call Chris Beames on 01656 645525 or 029 2034 5511.

Making your will

BERRY SMITH

THE LEGAL SOLUTION

Brackla House, Brackla Street, BRIDGEND CF31 1BZ Tel 01656 645 525

Haywood House Dumfries Place CARDIFF CF10 3GA Tel: 02920 345511

Emergency card helps ensure vulnerable are cared for

MANY people rely on a family member or friend for support and care. The biggest worry for these carers is how the person who relies on them would cope if anything happened to them.

Social services care staff at both the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff Councils had heard these worries from carers they work with, and they decided to do something to help.

As a result, they decided to introduce 'Carers Emergency Cards', credit-sized cards that carers carry at all times. If something should happen to a carer, such as an accident or sudden illness, the card alerts the emergency services that there is someone who relies on them who cannot manage without help.

The person finding the card in the carer's purse or wallet can telephone the number on the card and quote the card's number.

Social services will hold emergency contact details, taken when the carer registers for the scheme, and with a brief phone call can arrange help for the person who is looked after.

Coun Dorothy Turner, of the Vale Council, said: "The Carers Emergency Card is a joint initiative between the Vale Council and Cardiff Council.

"We've introduced the scheme in direct response to carers telling us that one of their biggest concerns is what would happen to the person they care for if they are not around."

All carers need to do is register the details of the person they care for, and give the council contacts for up to three people who are willing and able to stand in for the carer in an emergency.

If they do not have people to stand in for them, the local social services teams will be alerted and they can make arrangements.

If you provide support to a family member or friend who has an illness or disability, then you are a carer, and you may be eligible to register for an emergency card.

If you would like to register, please contact us to discuss the scheme in confidence.

Call 01446 704604 or email kisaac@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Carers Emergency Card Scheme

Do you provide support to a family member or friend with an illness or disability?

If so, what would happen to the person you care for if you were in an accident or had a medical emergency?

Give yourself peace of mind by registering for a Carers Emergency Card

We can also help you to consider your needs in less serious situations and plan contingency arrangements.

To request a Carers Needs Assessment and/or register for the scheme contact:

Carers Development Officer
01446 704604

If you would like to register, please contact us to discuss the scheme in confidence.

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

email: kisaac@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Out and About with The GEM

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 605.

● **£2000:** 305317.

The rollover, which now stands at £2,500 was not claimed this week.

● **£10:** 259989; 278893; 596439; 311362; 160294; 688263; 342872; 489796; 572010; 662063; 393252; 696257; 553577; 520037; 354336; 609104; 478053; 292919; 177864; 732663.

● **£5:** 811287; 586383; 586142; 440907; 693145; 542607; 816767; 504469; 757073; 739541; 814514; 382475; 763692; 451734; 158950; 103796; 469772; 170982; 111132; 356308; 776206; 198458; 581655; 612191; 481989; 404073; 595390; 799899; 369995; 200230; 510008; 677416; 320071; 560453; 801340; 866041; 789428; 758291; 352581; 344347; 811781; 130574; 860393; 195385; 136738; 795666; 699783; 640670; 517270; 639877; 679871; 369570; 694558; 350725; 781294; 791801; 703187; 823636; 542928; 379906.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

PACT meetings

BARUC & ILLTYD joint PACT surgery will be held at the Park Parlour Grocery store, Park Crescent Barry, on February 23, between 10am-1pm.

ST HILARY coffee and chat meeting, St Hilary Village Hall, February 19, at 11am.

PETERSTON Cuppa with a Copper meeting, The Three Horseshoes Public House, on March 9, at 11.30am.

STANWELL 'Cuppa with a Copper' meeting, Elfed Avenue Church on February 22, between 10.30am-12.30pm.

CORNERSWELL street surgery outside Tennyson Road Shops, February 23, between 2pm-4pm.

LLANDOUGH street surgery outside Llandough Primary School, February 24, between 3pm-4pm.

PLYMOUTH street surgery in the clifftops car park, February 25, between 3pm-5pm.

DINAS POWYS PACT public meeting, Bethesda Hall, March 8, at 7pm.

Album stamp winners

THE winners of our recent 'Classic Album Stamps' competition were:

C Clancy, Bridgend; Mrs G Williams, Pyle; Mrs H Brown, Broadlands; George Jeffery, Wick; Doris Allen, Ystradowen; G Sutcliffe, Cowbridge; Colin Marsh, Llantwit Major; Mrs J Davies, Rhoose; D Perkins, Dinas Powys; Andrew Donlan, Penarth; Mari Hughes, Ely; Liz Richfield, St Athan; Jocelyn James, Boverton; H Hobrough, Barry; AE Evans, Cowbridge; M Brown, St Athan; Sue Roberts, Barry; Jayne Watkins, Llantwit Major; Mrs K Edwards, Dinas Powys; Mr A Greenway, Barry.

Effective Prayer for Yourself and the World

Discover how you can use this prayer-based healing system for yourself and others.

Saturday, February 27th at 2.30 pm
Aberdare Hall
Corbett Road, Cardiff CF10 3UP

International speaker, **Marta Greenwood** is a practitioner and teacher of Christian Science healing and a member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship.

Volunteer dates

VALE Volunteer Bureau is hosting outreach surgeries to offer advice and information about volunteering and 700+ opportunities as follows:

February 19, Dinas Powys Library, 10am-12pm; February 20, Cowbridge Library, 1.30pm-3.30pm; February 22, Llantwit Major Library, 10am-12pm; February 24, Penarth Leisure Centre, 4pm-6pm.

For further information, contact Joe on (01446) 421782 or visit www.vvb.org.uk

Vale AM's surgeries

VALE Assembly Member Jane Hutt will be holding two surgeries on Saturday (February 20) at Celtic Way Community Centre, Rhoose, CF62 3FT, from 10am-11am and at The Gethering Place, St Athan, CF62 4JH, from 11.30am-12noon.

No appointment is necessary. Contact 01446 740981 for more information.

Meet the priest

THE 10am service in Barry this Sunday (February 21) at the Church of St Paul will be taken by Rev Roy Doxsey, Rector of St German, in Adamsdown, Cardiff.

Father Doxsey's life as a priest has included serving in the poorest and most deprived parts of Africa and also as chaplain at an English public school.

Meanwhile, Rector of St Paul's, Father Robert Parish, will be travelling to Cardiff to take the morning service at St Germans.

WHAT'S ON

Valeways winter walks

WALK the Penmark Millennium Trail Circular on Sunday, February 21, at 2pm, starting at the Six Bells, Penmark.

On February 23 at 1.30pm, Penarth Cliff top to Lavernock, starting at the Penarth Cliff top car park.

Coffee morning

THE Mayor of the Vale is holding a coffee morning for the National Coastwatch at Nell's Point.

It is being held at the Corporate Suite, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, February 23, from 10.30am-12noon.

Fairtrade talk

BRIDGEND welcomes a Fairtrade coffee producer from Uganda at a coffee tasting evening on February 24 at 7.30pm.

Sambazi Sarah Wetaki will speak on the benefits Fairtrade has brought to her community, at Pyle Co-op Fairtrade coffee bar.

Crime prevention

THE neighbouring policing team for Penarth is to hold a crime prevention surgery in the town centre on Wednesday, February 24, which will offer advice on improving vehicle security and other crime prevention measures.

The surgery will be set up in a special trailer which will be parked on Stanwell Road near the HSBC bank. It will run from 2pm-5pm when officers will be on hand to offer advice on how to keep your vehicles and homes safe and secure.

Big Screen

BIG SCREEN'S next presentation is *Coco before Chanel* (Cert 12A) which will be shown on Thursday, February 25 at 7.30pm in Cowbridge Town Hall.

Coco (played by Audrey Tatou) rose from humble origins in an orphanage and the music hall with the help of various lovers to become one of France's foremost fashion designers.

Doors open at 7.10pm. Tickets are £3 (available in advance from the town clerk's office, or on the door).

Discover the performer in you, no matter what your age!

StageC.A.M.P. (Central Academy of Music and Performance) are proud to announce their arrival in Cowbridge.

They will be offering various courses and private tuition to adults and children in all aspects of music and performance. Feel Good and Sing starts on March 1, and is a 10-week course aimed at anyone who wants to have fun and sing.

Singing has been clinically proven to ease symptoms of depression and anxiety; it helps build confidence, improves your posture, and improves general well being.

Young Performers is a 10-week performance course aimed at 7-16 year olds who want to improve their singing and performance skills. Over the 10 weeks we will cover various songs, including songs from Glee, harmonies, solos, dance, and song writing.

Due to limited places, auditions will take place on Tuesday March 2, 4.30pm at The Little Shop of Calm, 1 Westgate, Cowbridge.

Course fee is £65 for 10 weeks.

For more info e-mail contact@liannemorgan.co.uk or visit www.stagecamp.co.uk

BRO Radio and **The Glamorgan GEM** working together to bring you the very latest local news from your new community station, BRO Radio. Got a news story for us? Then call us on **01446 420681** or email: news@broradio.fm or contact the Glamorgan GEM on **01446 774484** email: ggem@internet-today.co.uk

Join a warm and friendly group near you today...

DAY GROUPS

WEDNESDAY

Penarth – 9.30am & 11.45am
All Saints Church Hall, Victoria Square
Linda 01446 761150

THURSDAY

Barry – 10.15am
Castleland Community Centre
Belvedere Crescent
Niki 01446 740394

Cowbridge – 10.00am
The Duke of Wellington
High Street
Lina 01656 890708

EVENING GROUPS

MONDAY

Barry – 4.30 & 6.30pm
Brynsion Hall, Junction of Court Road and Llanover Street
Lorraine 01446 407002

Penarth – 6.30pm
Elfed Avenue Methodist Church
Elfed Road
Niki 01446 740394

Rhoose – 6.30pm
Celtic Way Community Centre
Celtic Way
Helen 01446 750738

TUESDAY

Barry – 5.45pm
Market Street Social Club
Upstairs Function Room
Joanne 01446 404897

Barry – 4.30pm
St. Davids Methodist Church Hall, Winston Road
Annamarie 01446 736534

Llantwit Major – 4.45 & 6.45pm
Old School, Wine Street
Helen 01446 750738

Sully – 6.30pm
The Old School, South Road
Niki 01446 740394

WEDNESDAY

Barry – 4.45 & 6.45pm
St.Francis
Millennium Centre
Park Road,
Porth-y-Castell
Annamarie 01446 736534

Barry – 6.00pm
Cadoxton Methodist Church
Church Road
Joanne 01446 404897

Cowbridge – 6.00pm
The Duke of Wellington, High Street
Lina 01656 890708

Penarth 5.00 & 7.00pm
All Saints Church Hall, Victoria Square
Linda 01446 761150

THURSDAY

Barry – 6.00pm
Highlight Park Comm. Centre, Barry
Annamarie 01446 736534

Dinas Powys – 6.30pm
The Cabin, by swimming pool
Hebron Hall
Lorraine 01446 407002

Week commencing 22/2 all groups will be holding a party with fabulous food optimising taster sessions to show how flexible, delicious and easy our plans are.

0844 897 8000
www.slimmingworld.com

Why not come along, everyone welcome, no obligation to join.

Slimming World – because you're amazing

BRO radio 98·1fm Waitrose

1 minute, 1 trolley, 1 lucky listener!

TROLLEY DASH

and it couldn't be easier to enter...

Just pop your details on this form and send it to the address:

Trolley Dash, BRO Radio, The media Centre, YMCA Hub, Barry CF63 4EE or hand it into us at reception.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Post Code ..... Tel .....

You can also enter by TEXT to BRO Radio on 82010 starting your message with BRO TROLLEY, including your name and DOB.

T&C's apply. Competition details available on request on 01446 240681 or on the website. Closing date for entries: midday Wednesday March 10th, late entries will not be included in the draw. Entrants must be 18 years or over.

The winner will need to be available on the evening of March 12th and the draw will take place midday March 10th on BRO radio 98.1fm.

Another great GEM competition in conjunction with BRO radio 98·1fm & Waitrose

Expect 5 star service

chris-davies.co.uk

£239,995

Groeswen, Llantwit Major
Modern detached house. 4 beds. Kitchen/diner. UPVC conservatory. GCH. Double glazed. Private mature rear garden. Driveway & Garden.
Llantwit Major Office 01446 791963

£94,950

Berry Court, Llantwit Major
Modern middle link home 3 bedrooms. Lounge. Kitchen/Diner. Cloaks. Bathroom. Vacant Possession.
Llantwit Major office 01446 791963

£99,950

Partridge Road, St Athan
2 bedrooms.Middle terraced home.Well presented.Popular location. Open green aspect. Off road parking.
Llantwit Major office 01446 791963

£117,500

Starling Road, St Athan
3 Bedrooms. Middle Link Home. Open Green Aspect. Lounge, Kitchen/Diner. Gas Fired Heating, Dble Glazed. Off Road Parking.
Llantwit Major Office 01446 791963.

£125,000

Whiteways, Llantwit Major
Modern End Link. 2 Bedrooms.16' Kitchen/Diner.Bathroom & Separate WC.Gardens/Driveway/Parking. GCH & UPVC DG NO CHAIN!
Llantwit Major Office 01446 791963

£125,000

Maes Illtuds, Llantwit Major
Superb starter home. 2 double bedrooms. Landscaped garden. UPVC GCH. French Doors.Double width driveway.Quiet cul-de-sac.
Llantwit Major Office 01446 791963

£149,995

Fitzhamon Avenue, Llantwit Major
Traditional family house. 3 beds. Conservatory. Kitchen/Diner. UPVC windows & Doors. GCH with Combi. Southerly landscaped rear.
Llantwit Major Office 01446 791963

£229,000

Glenn Cottage, Llantwit Major
Period 2 bedroom cottage. Historic location. 2 reception rooms. Kitchen/breakfast. Bathroom & ensuite. Private cottage garden.
Llantwit Major Office 01446 791963

NEW **£225,000**

Heol Merioneth, Llantwit Major
Detached Family Home. 5 Bedrooms. 3 Reception Rooms. Off Road Parking/Garage. Corner Plot. Internal Viewing Recommended.
Llantwit Major Office 01446 791963

NEW **£129,950**

Woodlands Road, Barry
Terraced House, 3 bedrooms & 1 reception, modern fitted kitchen, 1st floor bathroom, gas CH, no chain, rear garden.
Call Andrew on 01446 709945

NEW **£139,950**

Gladstone Road, Barry
Attractive semi, 3 bedrooms & 2 receptions, kitchen & cloaks/wc, 1st floor shower room, gas CH & UPVC DG, No Chain, 66' southerly garden.
Call Andrew on 01446 709945

NEW **£145,000**

Alexandra Crescent, Barry
Immaculate semi, Lounge with French doors, fitted kitchen/diner, refitted bathroom, gas CH & UPVC DG, views, gardens & driveway.
Call Andrew on 01446 709945.

NEW PRICE **£174,950**

Rhodfa'r Gwagenni, Barry
Super end link townhouse, 4 bedrooms & 2 receptions, kitchen/diner with patio doors, bathroom, cloaks & en-suite, gas CH & UPVC DG, large rear garden.
Call Andrew on 01446 709945

NEW PRICE **£182,500**

Blackberry Drive, Barry
Larger style detached home, 3 bedrooms & 2 receptions, kitchen & conservatory, wc, en-suite & bathroom, gas CH & UPVC DG, front & rear gardens.
Call Andrew on 01446 709945

NEW **£195,000**

Liscum Way, Barry
Stunning 3 bed semi, lounge & conservatory, fabulous kitchen, bathroom & shower, gas CH & UPVC DG, No Chain, gardens drive & garage.
Call Andrew on 01446 709945

NEW PRICE **£229,950**

Victoria Park Road, Barry
Unique semi detached house, 4 beds & 2 receptions, kitchen/diner & utility room, bathroom/wc with shower, gas CH & DG, open aspect views, garden & drive.
Call Andrew on 01446 709945

NEW PRICE **£239,950**

Merthyr Dyfan Road, Barry
Traditional detached, 5 beds & 2 receptions, superb oak kitchen, large family bathroom, gas CH & UPVC DG, cloaks/wc, gardens & parking.
Call Andrew on 01446 709945

NEW **£284,950**

Highlight Lane, Barry
Detached family home, 3 receptions & 4 beds, conservatory, kitchen/breakfast room, bathroom/shower, gas CH & UPVC DG, double drive, carport, gardens and garage.
Call Andrew on 01446 709945

NEW **£79,950**

Havant Close, Rhoose
1st floor flat, sea views, lounge & 2 double bedrooms, kitchen & walk in cupboard, bathroom & separate wc, UPVC DG, electric heating, allocated parking, No Chain
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

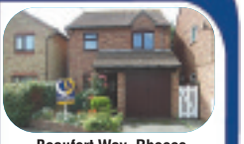
NEW PRICE **£84,950**

Romilly Road, Rhoose
1st floor flat 1 of 6, 2 bedrooms & living room, sep kitchen/breakfast room, modern double shower room, UPVC DG, electric heating, communal gardens and parking.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW **£99,950**

Ceri Road, Rhoose
Modern link, 2 beds, living room, kitchen/breakfast room, 1st floor bathroom, UPVC DG, electric heating, front & rear gardens.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

£142,950



Beaufort Way, Rhoose
3 bed detached house, lounge/diner & conservatory, kitchen, refitted shower room, gas CH & UPVC DG, No Chain, Gardens, Drive & Parking.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

£189,950

Channel Close, Rhoose
Superb detached house, 3 beds & 2 receps, kitchen & large utility, refitted bathroom/wc, gas CH & UPVC DG, gardens & garage.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW **£199,950**

Wesley Avenue, Rhoose
Superb 3 bed semi bungalow, lounge, kitchen & utility/breakfast room, refitted bathroom/shower, gas CH & UPVC DG, No Chain, gardens, drive & garage.
Call Andrew on 01446 71300

NEW **£229,950**

Mayflower Way, Rhoose
Stunning detached house, 4 bedrooms & 2 receptions, conservatory, cloaks, en-suite & bathroom, UPVC DG & gas CH, 2 car drive, gardens & garage.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW **£249,950**

Porfa Ballas, Rhoose Point
Modern detached, 4 beds & 2 receps, kitchen/family room, en-suite off 18' bedroom, UPVC DG and gas CH, 2 car drive, garden and garage.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW **£430,000**

Heol Pearetree, Rhoose Point
Stunning detached, 5 beds, 3 receps, 3 baths, kitchen/diner, magnificent views, gas CH & UPVC DG, No Chain, gardens, double garage & parking.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

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APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 24 February 2009

Vale of Glamorgan Council · Hafod Housing Association · Newydd Housing Association · Wales and West Housing Association

homes4u HOTLINE
01446 709840
01446 704316

To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at **HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk** or apply in writing to:
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Legal, Public Protection and Housing Department
Civic Offices Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

CLOS LLAWHADEN, BARRY

H4U Reference 1038148
Suitable for a family
- Two-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Enclosed rear garden
- Parking

Rent £71.44 per week including service charge

CLOS YR HARBWR, BARRY

H4U Reference 989531
Suitable for a family
- Two-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Enclosed rear garden
- Parking

Rent £72.49 per week including service charge

CRAWSHAY CT, LLANTWIT MJR

H4U Reference 234194
Suit. for a single person or couple over 60 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor (lift)
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Warden and alarm

Rent £89.79 pw inc alarm service and water charges

CWRT MELIN Y RHOS, BARRY

H4U Reference 1038739
Suit. for a single person or couple over 40 – no pets
- One bedroom flat
- First floor
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal entrance
- Parking

Rent £66.82 per week including service charge

DEVON AVENUE, BARRY

H4U Reference 207270
Suitable for a family with 4 plus children
- Four-bed parlour house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £91.96 per week including water charges

EDWARD STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 208913
Suit. for a single person, couple or small family – no pets
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £68.45 per week including service charges

FAIROAKS, DINAS POWYS

H4U Reference 230693
Suit. for a single person or couple over 60 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm & wrdn

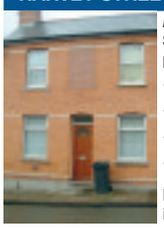
Rent £90.06 pw inc alarm service and water charges

HANOVER COURT, DINAS POWYS

H4U Reference 1038080
Suit. for a single person or couple over 60 (55 with medical needs)
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Manager and alarm

Rent £98.59 per week including service charges

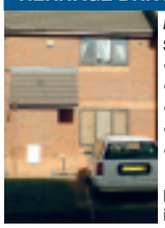
HARVEY STREET, BARRY



H4U Reference 981890
Suitable for a single person or couple
- One-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Enclosed rear garden

Rent £63.11 per week including service charge

HERITAGE DRIVE, BARRY



H4U Reference 1038728
Suitable for a family
- Two-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Enclosed rear garden
- Parking

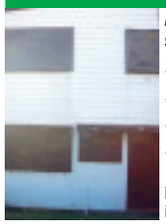
Rent £71.37 per week including service charge

MAGELLAN CLOSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 1038739
Suitable for a family
- Two-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Enclosed rear garden
- Parking

Rent £66.82 per week including service charge

MANORBIER COURT, BARRY



H4U Reference 215538
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £84.16 per week including water charges

OWAIN COURT, ST ATHAN

H4U Reference 249321
Suit. for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £77.07 pw including alarm and service charges

PLASSEY HOUSE, PENARTH

H4U Reference
Suitable for a single person over 55 – no pets
- Studio apartment
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

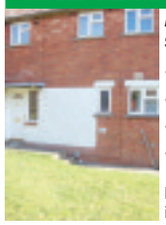
Rent £74.21 pw including service and alarm charges

POWIS VIEW, BARRY

H4U Reference 1038502
Suitable for a mature person or family over 40
- Two-bed flat (no pets)
- Ground floor (with steps)
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £64.72 per week plus £8.45 service chg

SHAKESPEARE ROAD, BARRY



H4U Reference 223030
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £83.61 per week including water charges

ST DONATS CLOSE, LLANTWIT MJR

H4U Reference 1038693
Suit. for a single person or couple over 60 (55 with medical needs)
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Manager and alarm

Rent £63.32 per week including service charges

FEEDBACK

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Cae Canol	112	Gold	0910/08
Chesterfield St	70	Gold	21/12/09
College Fields	71	Gold	19/08/09
Columbus Close	100	Gold	30/04/09
Court Road	36	Gold	05/08/09
Crawshay Court	8	Silver	26/10/09
Crawshay Drive	18	Gold	16/10/08
Dylan Crescent	24	Gold	15/10/09
Gower Court	12	Silver	29/03/07
Gwenog Court	7	Bronze	23/01/08
Lennox Green	15	Silver	05/08/09
Montgomery Rd	107	Gold	13/10/08
North Walk	11	Silver	22/12/05
Pendine Close	33	Gold	24/08/09
Severn Avenue	13	Silver	10/11/09
Ty Gwenfo	9	Gold	08/12/09
Whitewell Road	90	Gold	27/04/09
Winstone Road	36	Gold	07/08/08

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- Community alarm

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H4U Reference 228511
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- Three-bedroom house
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- Double glazing
- Gardens

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Who wants to build what and where in the Vale?

Mr Andrew Burns – **12 Laburnum Way, Dinas Powys** – demolish existing bungalow and construct new three-bedroom split level bungalow.
Mr and Mrs O'Sullivan – **37 Cambridge Street, Barry** – loft conversion including alterations to roof.
Mr Christopher Langdon – **2 Woodlands, Llanharry** – conservatory to side elevation.
Mr Edward Borge – **41 Sherbourne Close, Barry** – two storey extension to side of property.
Mr Hywel Morgan – **Lower House, Michaelston Le Pit** – retention of use as garden.
Mr N Bialynicki-Birula – **44 Baron Road, Penarth** – proposed dormer to side of property.
Mr Simon Harrison – **35 Manor Park, Llantwit Major** – erection of a single storey extension to front and rear of property.
Mr Christopher Howarth – **20 Evenlode Avenue, Penarth** – erection of first floor extension and balconies, ground floor extension and provision of swimming pool and pool enclosure.
Mr Simon Llewellyn – **Unit 4, BSC, Hood Road, Barry** – proposed change of use for Unit 4 from existing B1 to B2 (general industry) for the production of chilli sauce.
Mr Terry Donovan – **56 Redlands Avenue, Penarth** – change of use of single dwelling to two flats.
Mr Graham Cartwright – **The Croft, Llanmaes** – replace two existing dormer windows including flat roof with hardwood peaked windows incorporating tiled pitching back into the existing structure.
Mr Michael Baker – **4 Clos Cefni, Cwm Talwg, Barry** – proposed extension to first floor above.
Mr Paul Davenport – **White Lodge, 117 Fontygary Road, Rhoose** – roof repair and extension.
Ms Kim Howell – **Three Oaks, Church Road, Llanblethian** – proposed extension.
Mr Glyn Canter – **Melin Wynt, Llansannor** – proposed stable and farm machinery storage.
Mr Julian Hitchcock – **Old Rectory, Llandough, Cowbridge** – extensions and alterations. Two storey extension to side including internal alterations to kitchen and two bedrooms. Single storey extension to rear - glass pavilion to provide additional living space.
Mr Mark Aston – **Dyffryn Lloff Barn, Tredodridge** – proposed barn/garage to serve Dyffryn Lloff Barn and situated within designated curtilage.
Vale of Glamorgan Council Dock Office – **Dyffryn Gardens, Dyffryn** – repair works to stable yard walls including re-rendering, stone repairs, repointing and resetting of copings and new gates to stable yard. Repairs to three chimney stacks within the stable yard. Installation of timber gates to walled gardens. Provision of a ramp access adjoining toilet area.
Mr Malcolm Jones – **69 Lavernock Road, Penarth** – extend existing garage to provide workshop/associated external works.
Mr Anton Woodhouse – **36 Le Sor Hill, Peterston Super Ely** – two storey side extension to provide ancillary accommodation to enable care for elderly with detached garage to side and studio above.
Mr Thomas Davis – **Leckwith Concrete Products, Leckwith Bridge Yard, Leckwith Road, Leckwith** – retention of steel building for storage.
Mr Gordon Hadfield – **The Spinney Holiday Park, Beach Road, Swanbridge** – replacement of existing timber building with traditional unit as park manager's living accommodation.
Mr and Mrs James and Chloe Ford – **Tyn-y-Caia Farm, Sutton Road, Llandow, Cowbridge** – construction of a 12,000 bird free-range egg production unit.
Messrs A and J Raymond – **strip of land between unclassified road to the north of Waterton Lodge and the garden of Waterton, Lodge, Colwinston** – new surfaced access road from unclassified road to north of Waterton Lodge to allow agricultural vehicles access to the agricultural land to the east and south of Waterton Lodge.
Mr Merl Maher – **4 Maes Y Ffynon, Bonvilston –** double storey side and rear extension.

Charity race night

LLANMAES social committee is holding a racing evening in conjunction with the Blacksmiths Arms, Llanmaes on Thursday, February 25.

With a total of eight races – the first starting at 8pm – you can bet against the tote and cheer your horse on in each exciting finish.

All races are being sponsored by local businesses and proceeds from the event will go to the Haiti Disaster Fund.

COWBRIDGE SQUASH FIRST TEAM GOES TOP AFTER CALDICOT WIN

THE Cowbridge A Bar 44 squash rackets team knew they could hit top spot in their league (South Wales Div 2 East B) with a win or certainly a high-scoring loss over Llanishen A in their week 4 fixture.

Players No 5 and No 3 were elected to start proceedings but both Richard Ford and Garfield Leask respectively drew blanks in losing 0-3.

This was definitely not the start they had been hoping for – two strings played and not a point to show for it!! So now it was up to Nos 1, 2 and 4 to try to rescue something from the nights work.

Nick Guard at No1 was the next to take to the court and he lost the first set in a tie-break 8-10 (the match state of play at this stage 0-7!)

Meanwhile on the other court Jon Bisson (No2) was showing promise with his speed and fitness to post Cowbridge's first point of the night by taking his first game 9-7 - the comeback was on!

Nick Guard managed to get back to 1-1 with another tie-break but that was before falling behind again 3-9 in the third.

Bisson continued to keep the edge on Nick Quinn and posted a worthy 3-0 to put Cowbridge back in the match.

Guard then called on his guile and experience to pull through 3-2 to level the match but the team were still short of the nine points required from the match to take the league's top position away from Caldicot.

This onerous task was left to Niall Sloan in the No4 string, taking on Welsh Ladies international Carolyn Guard. Only a win for Niall would see the team achieve their pole position target.

This, he set about with relish and was able to power his way to a 9-1, 9-2, 9-6 win to secure the bonus points for the team (match score 14-8)

Cowbridge B Bar 44 travelled to David Lloyds B for their week four match and looked to be off to a flyer, but for the second week running managed to finish on the reverse end of a 3-2 result.

Colin Baxter continued his comeback form with another 3-0 win at No5, finishing strongly 9-2 in the third set.

Steve Morris started strongly in the No2 string, taking the first two games 9-5, 9-3, with chances for 3-0, but he eventually lost the tie-break third 8-10. This seemed to dent his concentration, losing the fourth 2-9. Morris took an early four-point lead in the decider but then disaster struck, with the recurrence of a calf injury forcing him to retire.

Julian Jenkins fought a highly competitive match at No4 and finally wound up 3-1 winner with a 10-8 tie-break fourth set.

No3 player Chris Ranger also took part in a keenly contested match but having levelled at 1-1 was unable to push through – going down 5-9, 6-9 in the third and fourth.

With the match at 2-2 it was down to No1 Simon Payne to try to secure the bonus points. He started well, taking the first game 9-4 but his hard-hitting opponent cranked up the pace to win 3- 1 (match score 10-14).

The Bs find themselves positioned second in South Glamorgan Division One despite their defeats.

Week four also saw another defeat for the Cowbridge C lads – this time at the hands of the youthful Cardiff University B team.

Perhaps their luck will change in this week's home fixture against Fairwater B. Meanwhile, the A team travel to Abercynon to see if they can consolidate their table-topping position. The B team have no fixture this week.

RUSS WATTS

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LLANTWIT MAJOR - £68,950

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ST ATHAN - £99,500

Well maintained two bedroom end of link house comprising Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Dining Room, Bathroom/WC. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazing. Open plan to front and side, off road parking and enclosed rear garden. Freehold. Ref 410D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £350,000

Well maintained detached house and garage with purpose built annexe originally used as a granny flat. Main residence - Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Three bedrooms, Bathroom/WC. Annexe – Lounge/Diner, Kitchenette, Bedroom, Shower Room. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazing. Good size gardens with sun terrace and decked areas. Freehold. Ref 470D

LLANMAES - £395,000

Individual built four bedroom detached house and garage situated in rural surroundings in the village of Llanmaes comprising Hallway, Lounge, Well fitted Kitchen, Dining area, TV Room, Utility Room, Ground floor shower room, Modern Bathroom. Double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating. Driveway with turning area and good size gardens. Freehold. Ref 481D

BOVERTON - £90,000

Two bedroom purpose built first floor flat with garage situated in a block of four comprising Hallway, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Bathroom/WC. UPVC double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Communal gardens. Ref 486D.

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £225,000

SWell maintained three bedroom end of terrace cottage situated in the heart of the town comprising Hallway, Dining Room, Study, Sitting Room, Fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. Double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Many original features remain and is well presented throughout. Courtyard to the rear. Freehold. Ref 490D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £92,500

Self contained ground floor two bedroom flat in a purpose built block which forms part of a retirement housing development and has a residential warden present. Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Bathroom, Fitted Kitchen, Double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Parking area, Communal facilities. Ref 491D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £185,000

Well maintained modern extended three bedroom semi-detached house with garage and conservatory to the rear comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Cloakroom, Modern Bathroom. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and garden to the front and good size rear garden. Ref 492D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £130,000

Modern two bedroom semi-detached house comprising Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Dining area, Modern Bathroom. UPCV double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Open plan to the front and driveway to the side. Good garden to the rear. Freehold. Ref 494D

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Cowbridge opera girls go on tour with the WNO...

TWO Cowbridge sisters were making their stage debut last night (Wednesday) in the chorus of the Welsh National Opera (WNO) production of *Tosca* at the Wales Millennium Centre.

Asha and Hana Fletcher-Peters are 15 and 13 years of age respectively, and both go to Cowbridge Comprehensive school.

Their mother, Karen Fletcher-Peters told The GEM: "Watching the girls in the dress rehearsals has been really exciting, and they are very thrilled about going on tour with the production when it finishes its Cardiff run."

Asha does have a singing coach, former Spice girl Lianne Morgan, who has a studio in Cowbridge, and she told The GEM that she knew that Asha had something special the first time she sang for her.

Lianne said; "Asha was just 14 years old when she started having vocal classes with me. I was not taking on private pupils at the time, but when I heard her sing I knew she had something special, and after just a few lessons she won Young Musician of the Year."

Asha won that competition singing 'On My Own' from *Les Miserables,* rather than an opera aria, and in fact both girls have very eclectic musical tastes, ranging from musical theatre to hip hop, and from opera to rock.

Hana also sang in that competition, and impressed the judges with 'Wishing You Were Here Again' from *Phantom of the Opera*.

Cowbridge residents who were there for the entertainment that followed last December's Reindeer Parade will have heard Asha sing, and she also performed at the Oxjam charity event that was part of the Cowbridge Food Festival.

Both girls love trying to sing in as many styles as possible. However, Asha is pretty impressed with opera at the moment. She said: "Listening to the sopranos who will be sharing the role of Tosca is amazing.

"The way they can fill that hall with sound from one breath without a microphone is unbelievable."

Hana added: "It's really good to sing in Italian. We thought that would be difficult, but once you have the words explained to you, it soon feels natural."

When the production finishes its Cardiff run, the girls will be off on a three-month tour – without mum – where they will be chaperoned by WNO staff.

Cowbridge Comprehensive has been good about the missed school time, but the girls will have tutors making them work during the day.

Asha said: "We are on stage during the first half of the opera, so we then get taken out to eat, or to a film or maybe bowling."

The girls have been assured that the old days of dodgy theatrical digs are long gone, and they will have to get used to staying in nice hotels!

Asha's coach, Lianne Morgan, said: "I am very proud of Asha."

Lianne will be holding auditions for new pupils soon. E-mail *contact@liannemorgan.co.uk* for details.

PHIL IRWIN

Green group tackles 1,000 tree challenge

A LOCAL environmental group has been putting their collective backs into a project aimed at highlighting sustainable rural living.

John Roberts and Yvonne Leslie of Pencoed Growers, who are active supporters of Transition Cowbridge, set their sights on planting 1,000 hardwood trees on their vegetable farm by mid February.

The challenge reached the ears of the Cowbridge environmental group and within a few days a working party was organised to help with the planting.

John Roberts said: "It is good to see Transition in action. We were able to pass on our tree-planting skills and supply a home-grown lunch when the job was done."

Dinky Kennedy of Transition Cowbridge said: "We thoroughly enjoyed helping out; there was a great spirit of camaraderie and we hope we have taken a small step to increase the biodiversity of the area, at the same time improving John and Yvonne's carbon footprint.

"Some of the trees will be 'harvested' as firewood, some will be sold to local crafts men and women, and some will remain as woodland."

The group were also shown the 16 solar panels which have been installed on one of the barns. These will be supplying electricity back to the grid and will make Pencoed Growers one of the first farms in the area to make use of renewable energy in this way.

Transition Cowbridge have several community projects in the pipeline and would like to include as many people in the area as possible.

For further details on volunteering contact Rob McGhee or Dinky Kennedy at transition-cowbridge@google-mail.com or on 01446 775686.

Council steps in over Bosch land

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The First Minister, Carwyn Jones, and Deputy First Minister, Ieuan Wyn Jones travelled to Germany on February 8 to meet members of the Bosch board, to once again press the case for the plant to remain open.

In a statement to Assembly Members, they said: "We urged them to do all that they can to offer alternative products from within the group to keep production at the Cardiff site.

"However, none of the alternatives was considered feasible. While they welcomed the meeting, they indicated their intention to close the site despite us once again offering Assembly Government support."

Two more groups of Welsh AMs made the trip to the Bosch HQ this week.

On February 10, Conservative AMs Alun Cairns, Andrew RT Davies and David Melding announced that they intended to meet Bosch executives in Stuttgart. A day later, Labour AM Jane Hutt announced that she and Rhodri Morgan AM, would also be making the trip, accompanied by trade union representatives.

The two groups had separate meetings with Bosch managers on Tuesday.

Following their meeting, Conservative industry spokesman Mr Cairns said the AMs had emphasised the need for community involvement in the site's future and he had been encouraged that the company had agreed to set up a working party to limit the effect of the plant closing.

"It was a constructive meeting and the Bosch directors welcomed our involvement. They were also grateful for our insight into local community concerns highlighted over the future of the site."

Mr Davies said: "We were pleased with Bosch's commitment to establish a working group on managing the impact of closure. During our meeting we also emphasised the need for full community involvement, including the Vale and local community councils and all political parties."

Shadow Minister for the Economy David Melding said: "I welcomed the chance to meet senior Bosch executives to discuss not only the fate of hundreds of workers at the plant, but also the impact its closure will have on the surrounding community.

"It is regrettable, however, that the Assembly Government couldn't develop a feasible model for Bosch's new generation of applications, such as wind energy components."

After their meeting, Rhodri Morgan and Jane Hutt said: "After discussions lasting three hours in Germany with Bosch chiefs, work force representatives and Unite trade union officials, we secured an agreement that Bosch would work together with the Welsh Assembly Government and workforce representatives to secure the best possible legacy for not only the current skilled workforce at the Vale plant; but also the supply chain companies, and future employment opportunities at the plant and the use of the 330,000 square foot building complex."

The full text of Councillor Traherne's letter to The GEM can be read on page 2.

PTA quiz night

THE Cowbridge school quiz will be held on Friday, March 5 at 7.30pm in the middle school canteen. Tickets are £7.50 and include a ploughman's supper.

Contestants can enter a team of eight or join a team on the night. To avoid disappointment, e-mail pta@cowbridgecomprehensiveschool.co.uk or call Caroline on 01446 792320 for tickets.

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Too embarrassed to show visitors litter in the Vale

HATS off to I Hopkin of Aberthin for writing the letter, in The GEM on February 11, on the topic of litter in the Vale, which I have been meaning to write for weeks!

One does not need to look at the calendar to see that it is recycling day.

As soon as the truck has left our village, the lanes are strewn with plastic bottles, tin cans and carrier bags.

Every bit of road from my home in Llanmaes to Cowbridge is trashed with litter on a weekly basis. Surely the council could invest in trucks with covers to keep the litter in?

It's not rocket science, after all!

I agree that, aside from the litter we have to endure from the recycling trucks, there is a huge social problem of people generally littering. But it cannot be blamed solely on the 'new generation of citizens'.

In the example of Cowbridge school, surely it is the 'grown-ups' who are allowing this rubbish problem to be tolerated?

Wouldn't it be great if the school organised a weekly 'litter day' where students go out en masse for a half hour and tidy up.

If the powers that be were seen to care, perhaps it might instil some pride in the school and surrounding area for the young people.

You only have to take a look outside the grocery store in Llantwit Major (previously Somerfield, now Co-Op) to confirm that in fact the older generation is also to blame.

On any given day, you will see piles of rubbish under the trolleys.

Till receipts, discarded shopping lists, food wrappers, and cigarettes - not thrown down by youths but by your everyday shopper.

I believe if the management sent an employee out once an hour to tidy up, people would be less likely to litter, and might even begin to take pride in their town.

The other grocery store in Llantwit Major (Filco) by comparison is quite clean outside.

I sympathised also with I Hopkin about overseas visitors. I grew up in Florida, one of the cleanest states in the USA, and when I have family over here I am literally embarrassed to take them out. (I wonder if we should lobby the VOG council for free blindfolds to employ when we transport our guests from A to B?).

In America we have the slogan '*Keep America Beautiful*', and it is enforced by law, with hefty fines for littering. Here we have the slogan '*Keep Britain Tidy*', which really does not pack much punch, and clearly is not enforced.

Suggestions for reducing the amount of litter in the Vale:

1) The council needs to keep the recycled materials in the trucks.

2) The council should allocate more resources to cleaning up.

3) Every shopkeeper should keep their frontage clean, and every householder should keep their bit of road 'beautiful'.

I would like to think it is not hopeless. Clearly lots of people do not care, but let that not deter those of us who do care from trying to improve the situation!

Mrs. L. McGreevy
Llanmaes

'STOP THE LITTER BUGS!'

I DO take exception to part of what Mr Hopkin says about litter (GEM letters, last week).

The Vale Council has a lot of litter pickers out on foot clearing rubbish from the road sides. These are the people who fill the orange sacks that we see at the side of the road. This must cost them a significant amount of money.

Clearly, however, they are insufficient as the mountains of litter continue to accumulate. Perhaps some more community service orders should be directed towards picking litter?

There is a need, however, to stop the problem at source.

How many times have we driven behind a car and seen its occupants, young and old, throwing cigarette packets, crisp packets, soft drink cans and all sorts of other non-biodegradable rubbish out of the windows, when it would be equally easy to keep it in the car until they get home?

It really grates on me that there is nothing that I can presently do about this. Would it be possible to introduce a 'shop a litter bug' service, so that when we see this sort of thing happening we can ring, e-mail or write to the council, reporting the location and the license number of the car?

We are not concerned with who owns the car, we are concerned with the occupants. The council could then send a formal letter to the registered owner saying that the vehicle had been reported.

This would at least tell the litterbug, or his family, that the anti-social behaviour had been noticed.

If a vehicle is reported three times then a fixed penalty notice could be served on the owner!

Come to think of it, this could also be applied to that other scourge, people refusing to obey the law and using a hand-held mobile phone whilst driving!

David Kennett, Barry

Horrendous litter in Cowbridge

I WOULD like to congratulate the authors of two letters in last week's GEM regarding the litter, dog fouling and potholes in the Cowbridge area and state that during the past few weeks I have contacted the Vale Council on at least three occasions regarding the litter problem .

My wife and I have been regularly on walks and taken note of the continued problem of the horrendous amount deposited by motorists, schoolchildren, residents, and presumably visitors to the roads, pavements, paths and rights of way.

Examples are the St Athan Road, Llantwit Road, Aberthin Road (particularly outside the school), Stalling Down and Roman Road, (also complete overgrowing of bushes throughout) many paths into town, the Cattle Market.

So it goes on, including the whole of Culverhouse area. Why do Tesco's, Marks and Spencers, MacDonald's and all the stores leave this problem for months on end? Why do the Vale and Cardiff councils not employ the many persons on community service to serve their public in recompense for the crimes committed?

Dog fouling, particularly in Broadway, Town Mill Road and even on the High Street is prevalent, and all owners should be prosecuted.

As a result of the bad weather, we are now faced with many serious potholes in roads in the area and resulting damage to vehicles, but see very few efforts to repair these, except for the complete resurfacing of parts of Broadway.

I have had dealings with our local councillors and Vale Council officials over other matters in the past, but all complaints fail to receive proper attention.

The council reference numbers for the latest items are 2109774 and 2117064.

Brian Swain,
Cowbridge

'Let's bin the litter'

I FULLY agree with Mr Hopkin's comments on litter in last week's edition of The GEM.

In my travels home and abroad over many years in my motorhome, I consider Britain to be a rubbish dump by comparison with some of our European neighbours.

I think everyone should play a part in cleaning up their locality.

Parents and teachers should instill in children from a early age the need to bin or take home their rubbish.

The local authority should provide many more bins, especially near schools.

I sometimes take my 'extra hand' stick and a plastic bag when walking to town and always find ample litter to pick up, yet knowing the same problem will arise a few days later.

I wish others, using gloves, would pick up litter and bin it and not walk by.

R Williams,
Cowbridge

'BE READY TO CLEAN UP AFTER PETS ON A BEACH'

I AM writing in response to the letter in The GEM last week from Joanne McCarthy regarding horses and dogs on the beach at Whitmore Bay.

I regularly use the beach with my family and over the last year, have seen an increasing amount of horseriders use it too.

On many occasions, the behaviour of these riders has been unacceptable and dangerous, for example, cantering or galloping on a crowded beach (including during very busy times and bank holidays over the summer).

I have never seen a single horse rider clean up the huge piles of manure often left by their horses.

I note that Ms McCarthy says that her partner (on foot) cleans up after the horse. Given that she also says that she doesn't trot, canter or gallop, I am not sure why, her partner would have trouble keeping up with her and why, therefore, a dog walker felt the need to speak to her about manure left behind.

I can appreciate the difficulty involved with getting off a horse to clean up manure, but I also see disabled, elderly and infirm dog owners who have difficulty cleaning up after their dogs, but nevertheless manage to do so.

Anyone who takes a pet on the beach should be prepared to clean up after it, however difficult that might be – or else stay off the beach.

Excrement on the beach is infuriating, whether left by horses or dogs – as are the countless piles of litter and cigarette ends which will no doubt appear on the beach during the summer.

Being the mother of a toddler and also a responsible dog owner who cleans up after their pet, I frankly don't care who uses the beach, as long as they leave it clean.

Leanne Sokolski, Barry

Dogs should be kept on a lead

THE sight of horses galloping on the foreshore at Barry Island is a genuine delight for residents and visitors.

As a responsible dog owner whose pet was savagely attacked in an unprovoked attack on Barry Island – the problem outlined in The GEM on February 11 is not of responsible horse owners, but irresponsible dog owners, who often treat their pets as indulged children.

They need to realise that no matter how much they think of their dog as a pet, it is still an animal with a mind and instincts of its own – an issue compounded with the fashion for aggressive breeds.

Ultimately, dog owners are responsible for ensuring their dog does not interfere with, or cause problems for other users of the beautiful beaches at Barry Island.

The council should put up a sign at Barry Island welcoming responsible horse riders and bring in as soon as possible byelaws for dogs to be on leads on the promenade, and muzzles on aggressive breeds whenever they are outdoors.

There still isn't a sign at the Knap for dogs to be on leads, in spite of the incident where a swan was killed by a dog.

Judith and Andy Green, Barry Island

Should horses be banned from beach?

WITH reference to horses versus dogs on Barry Island beach, we use the beach on a daily basis, when permitted, with our two small dogs always carrying a generous supply of blue bags.

Whenever there are horses (however well controlled) there is mayhem! Friday and Saturday afternoons (February 12-13) were prime examples: Two horses racing on the beach, galloping at full pelt from one end of the sands to the other, using the whole of the beach.

Parents grabbed their young children's hands and where possible dog owners put their dogs on leads.

However obedient, dogs seeing horses will inevitably investigate. On Friday, the two riders finished up by trotting their horses along the promenade among pushchairs, wheelchairs and walkers.

There was no sign of any intention to pick up horse droppings.

Most walkers (with or without dogs) we speak to would like horses banned from the beach as there are other places designated for riders in the Vale. In every case we have seen, horses arrive in horse boxes.

Val and Neil Brown, Barry

Horses have rights, too!

I TRULY empathise with Joanne McCarthy's episode involving dog owners unwilling to control their pets on Barry Island beach.

Her horse has as much right as anybody else to enjoy the seaside. Out of control dogs, however, should not be allowed in any public place where inconsiderate people allow their dogs to run riot.

How many times have we read in The GEM of the sad plights of victims of dog attacks?

The fault is with the people who are ignorant of the basics in animal care and training. There should be stricter controls on obtaining pets, when they are not looked after properly, including dogs abandoned in backyards in extreme weather conditions, barking all day, and some through the night.

People unable to care for, or control their dogs, should be banned from keeping them, including breeders keeping animals in squalid conditions.

Dog wardens need to patrol all areas on foot on a regular basis, like our local 'bobby' with access to all lanes.

K Starr, Barry

Commonsense on the beach

I WOULD like to reply to Ms McCarthy's letter in The GEM regarding horses using the Barry Island beach.

I was also walking my dog when she appeared on the beach with her horse. On weekends the number of people walking their dogs on the beach has risen quite dramatically. It was a very foolish idea to bring a horse onto a beach at high tide and crowded with both dogs and children.

Fortunately, her horse behaved well, but if it had bolted I dread to think of the consequences. There was so very little room.

I walk my dog every day on the beach and at different times of the day. I have noticed that there are two riders who regularly bring their horses onto the beach for exercise.

They always appear when the tide is at its lowest, they have thought about this sensibly and chosen a time when there is plenty of room on the beach.

They walk past the dog walkers, then once they reach the shore line and the area is clear, they proceed into a full gallop. It is beautiful to watch and a pleasure to share the beach with them.

So I would ask Ms McCarthy to choose the time she wants to exercise her horse carefully. It is not safe to bring a horse onto a crowded beach, no matter how well-behaved the animal may be.

The dog, a predator animal, will bark at and chase a moving target; and likewise a horse, a prey animal will bolt.

We can all share the beach, but please use some commonsense.

H Spierling, Barry

Vale Council and the potholes

FOLLOWING a recent article in The GEM regarding potholes on the local roads in and around the Vale, I am dismayed at the lack of commitment from the council.

I reported some three weeks ago via the online forms, potholes on various roads in Llantwit Major. I then followed up with a phone call a week later regarding the state of another road in the Vale.

As a worker travelling outside the locality, I use various roads in the Vale. The routes from Llantwit Major towards the A48 and from the A48 at Pentre Meurig towards the M4 passing the St Mary's Golf Club are specifically bad and resulted in damage to my vehicle.

The biggest disappointment with the council was the fact I'd contacted them to report in the appropriate manner. I don't expect the work to be done straight away due to programming. However, after cycling through the lanes between Llanblethian and Llanmihangel over the weekend, the council had painted fresh yellow markings showing the potholes.

Does it not matter about the main roads causing damage to cars, or does the council prefer to deal with minor routes, where the traffic flow is significantly lower than the A roads?

(Name and address supplied)

Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan Schools' cross-country championships for Girls, Trelai Park, Cardiff

Llantwit's Megan remains 'a dominant force' in racing

Report by PETER MORRIS
Pictures by IAN DIXON

Start of the senior girls race with eventual winner Bethan Daw (St Cyres, 186) and Vale rivals Caitlin Bryant (The Cathedral, 391) and Fiona Bray (Cowbridge, 520) at the front of the field.

THERE was greater joy for the Vale girls at the Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan cross-country championships than there had been for the boys a fortnight earlier.

In similar conditions to the boys' afternoon – a bitterly cold afternoon on a course surprisingly firm except for the top section, next to the Ely link – the Vale list of successes started in the opening race, for girls in years 8 and 9.

Llantwit year-9 Megan Osborne had been the dominant force in the two autumn term races, and she underlined that her progress continues into the second, and more important part of the cross-country season as she eased away over the two big laps to finish 23 seconds ahead of year-8 Kate Coker (Stanwell) – and remain undefeated in Cardiff & the Vale Schools' races.

That individual win might have been the foundation stone for team success but, with both Lucy Tarrant and Erin Hayes not taking part, the under-strength Llantwit squad could finish no higher than sixth.

Athletes from Cardiff schools – Megan Tatnell (Corpus Christi) and Alice Broadley (Llanishen) – finished first and second in the year-7 girls' race, over one small and one big lap.

Winner! Megan Osborne (Llantwit) in the years 8 and 9 race.

Rebecca Thomas (Cowbridge) was the best placed Vale girl, taking the third place award, with Ana Mirza-Davies (Stanwell, 5th) and Nadine James (Cowbridge, 6th) close behind.

With two Cowbridge athletes in the top 10 and support from Ellie Bishop (15th) and Alice Tudor (16th), the Vale school's total of 40 was good enough to claim the team title, the only Vale success in the six team competitions for boys and girls.

In the longest race of the afternoon, the senior girls' event for pupils in years-10 and above over two small and one big lap, the early pace was shared by a quartet, which included St Cyres year-11 Bethan Daw and Bonvilston resident Caitlin Bryant (The Cathedral School).

As the race progressed, Daw continued to apply pressure and the challenge of her rivals gradually faded, leaving her to come home clear by nearly half a minute from second-placed Majidah Harb (Whitchurch).

The senior girls race includes two individual sections, one at under-17 for years 10 and 11 pupils and a second, at under-20, for sixth form students.

With the first 12 finishers being pupils in years 10 or 11, it was left to 13th-placed Francesca Capel (Howells, year-13) to take the under-20 title with two Cowbridge sixth formers, Elspeth Bisson and Holly Preece, taking second and third placed awards. For Elspeth, there was also team success as she combined with year 10 pupils Fiona Bray (7th), Rachel Bradshaw (16th) and Katie Wynne (17th) to help Cowbridge claim second place the Whitchurch squad.

The individual and team awards will be made at the annual Cross-Country presentation evening, which is due to be held at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg on Tuesday, May 11.

Following this fixture, Cardiff & the Vale Schools' district will choose teams of 12, plus six non travelling reserves, to compete at year-7, under-15 (years 8 and 9), under-17 (years 10 and 11) and under-20 (sixth form) at the Aviva 48th Welsh Schools' National cross-country championships at Brecon on Saturday, February 27.

Results of Vale pupils: Senior (under-20 and under-17) Girls – 4.3 km – Individuals – 61 finishers (23): 1 Bethan Daw (St Cy) 17:28; 4 Caitlin Bryant (Catdrl) 18:18; 6 Eloise Laity (West) 18:26; 7 Fiona Bray (Cow) 18:30; 10 Danielle Green (StRGwyn) 18:56; 16 Rachel Bradshaw (Cow) 20:16; 17 Katie Wynne (Cow) 20:16; 20 Molly Manley-Lamb (Catdrl) 21:05; 22 Elspeth Bisson (Cow under-20, 2nd) 21:26; 26 Holly Preece (Cow under-20, 3rd) 22:09; 30 Lucy Williams (Cow under-20, 5th) 23:06; 33 Skye Morham (StRGwyn) 23:30; 34 Georgia Kemeys (Cow under-20, 7th) 23:32; 35 Rosie Dent (Cow) 23:32; 36 Jodie Price (Bryn H) 23:32; 38 Natalie Parsons (Lwt) 23:42; 40 Ellie Carter (Bryn H) 23:47; 44 Bethan Heslop (Bro M under-20, 9th) 24:30; 45 Verity Morgan (Cow under-20, 10th) 24:34; 46 Amy Baldry (Lwt) 24:44; 47 Katie Mills (Bryn H) 24:45; 52 Hannah Jones (Bryn H) 25:52; 59 Caitlin Rowell (StRGwyn) 28:52.

Teams: 2 Cowbridge 62; 6 Cowbridge B 126; 8 Bryn Hafren 175.

Years 8 and 9 (under-15) Girls – 3.6 km – Individuals – 88 finishers (32): 1 Megan Osborne (Lwt) 14:27; 2 Kate Coker (Stan) 14:50; 10 Annabel Curle (Cow) 16:19; 12 Miriam Bennett (Cow) 16:34; 13 Lauren Williamson (StRGwyn) 16:43; 15 Tillie Carter (Bryn H) 16:54; 18 Rachel Cosier (Bryn H) 16:59; 23 Bethan Yapp (Bro M) 17:24; 33 Aimee Price (Lwt) 18:17; 35 Gabrielle Cuddihy (West) 18:22; 36 Ffion Davies (Bro M) 18:22; 37 Ffion Roberts (Bro M) 18:55; 38 Lauren Blake (StRGwyn) 18:57; 39 Caitlin Young (Bro M) 18:58; 40 Elisa Protheroe (West) 19:01; 43 Sioned Protheroe (West) 19:11; 45 Bethany Cleave (Lwt) 19:20; 46 Aimee Parsons (Lwt) 19:30; 51 Joanna Wilkins (Cow) 19:49; 52 Rochelle Davies (Bro M) 19:53; 53 Leah Kirby (Bro M) 19:55; 55 Izzy Eddy-Williams (Cow) 20:07; 56 Neive Gallagher (Cow) 20:08; 61 Alex Moss (StRGwyn) 20:27; 62 Sophie Swaffield (StRGwyn) 20:29; 63 Sophie George (Lwt) 20:29; 67 Ffion Hopkins (Cow) 20:45; 82 Ruby Morgan (Bro M) 22:01; 83 Chelsea Siirak (Bro M) 22:02; 84 Megan Punter (Bro M) 22:12; 85 Morgan White (StRGwyn) 23:29; 88 Christina Sperring (StRGwyn) 25:46.

Teams: 6 Llantwit Major 125; 7 Cowbridge 128; 8 Bro Morgannwg 135; 11 St Richard Gwyn 161; 14 Bro Morgannwg B 270.

Year-7 (under-13) Girls – 3 km – Individuals – 109 finishers (46): 3 Rebecca Thomas (Cow) 14:08; 5 Ana Mirza-Davies (Stan) 14:22; 6 Nadine James (Cow) 14:27; 14 Poppy Davies (Howells) 14:44; 15 Ellie Bishop (Cow) 14:46; 16 Alice Tudor (Cow) 14:46; 19 Katie Griffin (Catdrl) 15:00; 21 Maisie Squire (Stan) 15:12; 22 Chloe Hughes (Lwt) 15:14; 23 Kierney O'Dare (Lwt) 15:15; 29 Ella Dyer (Stan) 15:32; 34 Brooke Lagdon-Cryer (Cow) 15:45; 37 Elinor Hicks (Lwt) 15:47; 39 Ambra John (StRGwyn) 15:50; 40 Gen Watt (StRGwyn) 15:51; 41 Megan Davies (Bro M) 15:52; 47 Milly Williams (Stan) 16:14; 48 Jessica Coushen (Bryn H) 16:19; 63 Olivia Hamzelou (Stan) 17:13; 65 Hannah Lister-Sims (Cow) 17:16; 66 Delana Davies (Bro M) 17:17; 67 Evie Williams (Cow) 17:18; 69 Matilda Matthews (Bro M) 17:30; 70 Emma Davies (Stan) 17:31; 71 Sian Evans (Bro M) 17:44; 72 Michaela Winton (Bryn H) 17:46; 73 Tamara Pitt (Lwt) 17:47; 74 Alys Walton (Bro M) 17:52; 75 Menna Preece (Bro M) 17:54; 78 Bethan Williams (StRGwyn) 18:02; 79 Heulwen Hill (StRGwyn) 18:10; 81 Laura Young (Lwt) 18:27; 82 Morgan Davies-Jones (Bryn H) 18:37; 83 Kerys Jenkins (Bro M) 18:44; 84 Emilia Bailey (StRGwyn) 18:51; 88 Evie Carter (Bro M) 18:57; 89 Amy Miller (Lwt) 19:00; 90 Rhian Jones (Lwt) 19:00; 91 Emma Young (Lwt) 19:09; 92 Sarah Arnold (Bryn H) 19:13; 94 Kara Healan (Bro M) 19:30; 96 Kelsey Penikett (StRGwyn) 19:52; 97 Melissa Gray (Lwt) 19:59; 103 Molly Brown (Lwt) 22:10; 108 Elinor Power (StRGwyn) 22:22; 109 Rebecca Gill (StRGwyn) 22:23.

Teams: 1 Cowbridge 40; 6 Stanwell 102; 8 Llantwit Major 155; 12 Bro Morgannwg 206; 15 St Richard Gwyn 236; 16 Bryn Hafren 294; 18 Bro Morgannwg B 320; 20 Llantwit Major B 351; 21 St Richard Gwyn B 397.

An encouraging run from year-10 Danielle Green (St Richard Gwyn). Tenth place in the senior race gained her selection for the Cardiff & the Vale Schools under-17 team to compete at Brecon on February 27.

Rebecca Thomas, third in the year-7 race, led her Cowbridge squad to team success.

Students express themselves and claim library prizes

Coun Tony Hampton with pupils of Llanilltud Fawr Primary School.

FOUR Vale winners each won £50 in the local round of a national libraries competition – 'Express Yourself'.

St Richard Gwyn RC High School pupil Donna Thomas, with her painting, 'Magic World of Books', has been shortlisted to join the 18 winners at the Senedd on February 25 to compete in the secondary schools category for a further £500.

The other local winners were:

● The class of Sue Evans at Llanilltud Fawr Primary School, who produced posters advertising the library.

● Helen Bagnall (representing Palmerston Community Learning Centre) with a very colourful glass fusion plaque.

● Alexandra Bagnall (no relation) who produced an ink and watercolour illustration to win the individual category.

Vale Council chief librarian Sian Jones said: "We were delighted to receive more than 130 entries for the competition, and had a great time judging. Many made us laugh, many made us think about the positive ways in which libraries are perceived, and many others impressed with their skill and creativity."

Gavin & Stacey star Ruth Jones, who helped promote the competition and will present national awards, said: "It's fantastic that so many people have entered - it just goes to show what a creative nation we are. I'm really looking forward to seeing the work of the finalists and presenting the prizes."

***LEFT:** Vale Council cabinet member for education and lifelong learning Coun Tony Hampton and chief librarian Sian Jones with three individual winners, from left: Alexandra Bagnall, Donna Thomas and Helen Bagnall.*

ELO tribute act rock Barry Memorial Hall

WHEN Electric Light Orchestra main man Jeff Lynne was hired to produce Free as a Bird, the first 'new' Beatles track to be released for 25 years in 1995, Paul McCartney joked that he was hired because of ELO's sonic closeness to the Fab Four.

However, it is a statement that doesn't do justice to Lynne's innate musical sensibility that has made ELO one of the finest, if most underrated, bands to have emerged in this country.

While Lynne was also a member of The Travelling Wilburys, it is the songs that he produced under the ELO banner that have maintained the interest in a band who ceased making music 24 years ago (though briefly reforming and releasing new material in 2000).

Fortunately, for those who still find unbridled joy in the likes of Mr Blue Sky, Don't Bring Me Down, and other unarguable classics, the tribute band market means that ELO can keep on going, with The ELO Experience playing at the Barry Memorial Hall last Friday (February 12).

Coming on stage to a mixture of dry ice and dramatic lighting, the band soon kicked into songs that you would recognise even if you didn't know your ELO from MFI; all the hits were present as the band worked their way through the likes of Evil Woman, All Over The World, Telephone Line and Confusion.

The musicianship on show was superb, the band capturing the nuances and expanse of the band on record with alarming accuracy, particularly Andy Louis, who captured the Jeff Lynne vocals wonderfully well. While the crowd needed a little warming up, it wasn't long before some of the more exuberant members got up to have dance.

If the pace of the show dipped a little in the first half, with a few 'slowies' making up the middle of the set, it soon got back up to speed in the second half as the band explored ELO's more straightforward rock 'n' roll songs which was the cue for even more people to get up and dance.

As Roll Over Beethoven and Rock and Roll is King kept those who were dancing on the dancefloor, it was an opportunity for those a touch more geeky about their music to appreciate the fine band of musicians backing up Louis, their craft not going unnoticed by a crowd who gave each song warm applause.

Wrapping up proceedings with Don't Bring Me Down, the clamour for more was as predictable as the band's return, and with a fond thank you for a excellent response, the band closed proceedings with Mr Blue Sky, earning themselves a much deserverd standing ovation.

The ELO Experience play the Princess Royal Theatre in Port Talbot on March 27th, and they come heartily recommended.

GARETH JAMIESON

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Family Notices

BIRTHDAY MEMORIES

HISCOCK, Jennifer Mary
(nee Price)
on her 60th birthday, February 18th

"A gift in life we cannot buy,
That's very rare but true,
It's the gift of a wonderful wife,
Like the one I had in you.
I miss your fun and laughter,
The things you used to say,
But what I miss most of all,
Is you in every way.
So forgive me Lord if I still weep,
For the wife I loved but could not keep."

Your ever loving husband Phil *x x x x*

JOHNSON

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on 10th February, 2010, aged 80 years. Ian (Morlais) Johnson, beloved husband of Mary and father of James, Gerald, Spencer, Nigel and Kevin. Father-in-law to Annette, Tracy, Deborah and Nutjaree. Much loved grandfather/great grandfather to Elizabeth, Louise, Alexander, Francesca, Kristian, Oliver, Emma, Ian, William, Katie, Daniel and Fabian.
Funeral gathering at Colcot Community Centre, Barry CF62 9TZ at 10am, 1st March, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend CF35 6AB at 11.30am.
No flowers by request. Donations in lieu if desired, to Ty Hafan Children's Hospice in Wales can be made on the day.

SMITH
Arthur Henry
of Penyrheol Terrace, Llysworney.

Halcyone and family wish to thank everyone for their kind words and support during their sad loss. Special thanks to Ward 10 of the Princess of Wales Hospital and to all the doctors, district nurses and support staff at Dr Jemmett's surgery in Cowbridge. Special thanks to all my friends and neighbours who have supported me during this sad time. Also, to Reverend Peter Leonard for the lovely service and to Thomas Brothers, Funeral Directors for their professionalism.

BIRTHDAY MEMORIES

Wyndham Cooke
19.02

"If Tears could build a stairway,
and memories a lane, I'd walk right up
to Heaven and bring you home again."
Love, Ann, Kevin and Rhys *x*

Jill BEECHEY
Passed away February 19th, 2009
Not a day passes when you're not in my thoughts. Miss you every day and always will.
Paul *x x x*

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Experience in these areas is therefore essential. Fees and expenses will be paid in accordance with National Scales for work, which will involve between 15 and 20 hours per calendar month. For further information, and/or to apply, please contact the Chairman by March 12, 2010.
Coun P. Graham-Woollard, Yew Tree Farmhouse, Colwinston, Cowbridge CF71 7ND.
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Public Notice

TO LET ON LICENCE

The following grazing land is available by informal tender from 1 April 2010 until 31 January 2011

- 6.99 acres at Old Port Road, Wenvoe
- 9.38 acres at Caerau Lane, Wenvoe
- 2.58 acres opp. Manor House, Sully Road, Penarth
- 1.9 acres Sully Road, Penarth
- 37.5 acres at Tredogan, Rhoose
- 2.23 acres at Wick Road, Llantwit Major

Applications for Tender documents are now invited from interested parties.

Closing date for receipt of completed Tenders is 5 March 2010.

Contact: Estates Section, The Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU
Tel: 01446 709336/709756

COASTAL CONCESSION TENDER OFFERS FOR LICENCE

The following Coastal Concessions are available by Formal Licence from 1 April 2010 for a period of 2 years until 31 March 2012

- Combined Hot and Cold Refreshments Knap Car Park Barry
- Hot Food Ogmore-By-Sea Site 1
- Hot Food Ogmore-By-Sea Site 2

Interested parties must request tender documents from the Estates Section.

The closing date for receipt of completed tender documents is 5 March 2010.

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Town and County Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 6
APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION
Proposed development at Flackwell Cottage, Tredodridge, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan, CF71 7UL.

Take notice that application is being made by Mr Martin Dodwell to the Vale of Glamorgan Council for planning permission for: Town & Country Planning Act, 1990 (as amended). Change of use to residential curtilage and erection of boundary wall.
Application No. 2010/00030/FUL.
Any owner of the land or tenant who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Barry Docks, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF63 4RT within 21 days of the date of this notice.
Signed: Mr Martin Dodwell
Date 10/02/2010

Birthdays

Happy 18th Birthday
TO MY BABY GIRL
BECKY
Lots of love, Mum, Guy & Aimee
XXX

Happy 18th Birthday, Rebecca!!
Like a Sister to Lily, No. 1 Babysitter & second daughter.
All our love, Paul, Clare & Lily-Ann.
XXX

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Jo-Anne Cull
Happy 40th Birthday
22nd February 2010
With lots of love, Craig, Nia, Mum, Gary, Will & Margaret
XXX

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Articles For Sale

SEWING MACHINE, Proelectric, small, light weight, £22.50 ono. Bonsai Pots. 6 small to medium, one large plus tray, £12.50 ono. Tel. 01446 794822 **(07)**

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Young Vale rugby team gets a boost from power station

ABOVE: The Vale Wanderers under-13s in their new shirts.

THE newly-formed Vale Wanderers under-13 players have received a team boost from RWE npower, Aberthaw Power Station, with the donation of rugby shirts.

The team, made up of players from Dinas Powys, Llantwit Major and Sully clubs, merged to enable the 25 members to continue to play the sport as their respective clubs could not support individual teams at this age level. The aim will be to stay as a squad up to under-16 level.

Aberthaw Power Station responded to the request for the shirts – not a full strip as the players wear their own club socks (Barbarian-style) – and training T-shirts as part of their community donation scheme.

"We are very grateful as the shirts have helped with team spirit," said Tim Jones, director of rugby, Llantwit Major RFC mini and junior section, who has brought the youngsters together.

Aberthaw Power Station manager Phil Allen (right) hands over the new Vale Wanders under-13 shirts to director of rugby, Tim Jones, watched by the team and coaches (standing from left) Neil Evans and Chris Davies.

Llantwit under-14s progress in the Five Nations Cup

LLANTWIT MAJOR under-14 A v LEOMINSTER

ON Sunday, January 24, Llantwit Major under-14 A hosted Leominster in a fixture previously scheduled for October last year, but which was postponed due to the weather.

The fixture is part of the first round of the British Isles and Ireland, Lions Five Nations Youth Football Tournament, which allows teams (under-14 years old) to compete against each other in the only EUFA sanctioned competition for this age group.

The winners would progress through the second round of the Lions competition, with the reward an away fixture against Frome, a team from Somerset.

Llantwit were able to field a full strength side supported by a full bench of substitutes.

The size of the pitch provided plenty of space for the teams to play an expansive game.

It was Llantwit who had to be cautious as the visitors played the long ball up to their main striker, who required close attention from Ed Howley and Aiden Byrne at the centre of the Llantwit defence.

Both teams found the sticky pitch difficult and the match sped along at a frantic pace.

Leominster struck the bar from a free kick which was subsequently kept out by Josh Cutter in goal but it was Llantwit who struck first with a well-worked goal.

Some good passes allowed Tom Russell to stab the ball home from close range.

Some heroic defending followed at the other end with the Llantwit keeper beaten, but saved by the post, with Aiden Byrne on hand to bundle the ball out in a last ditch effort to leave the home team up 1-0 at half time.

In the second half, Llantwit started with confidence, with the back four shutting Leominster out, and the Llantwit midfield of Owain Lord and Joe Laing giving the visitors no time on the ball.

A well-worked move down the right towards the middle of the half saw Geraint Jones control, turn and strike the ball towards goal, squeezing it in between the keeper's outstretched arm and the post to make it 2-0 to Llantwit.

With some fresh legs coming on in the shape of Tom Hodgkinson and William Teague, it was up to the home side to stand up to the expected onslaught in the last 10 minutes, with Ashley Morris and Steffan Baker adding to the defensive cordon in front of the Llantwit goal.

Josh Cutter in goal continued to dominate his area, picking up everything that came his way, pulling off a number of fine saves in what was a man of the match performance.

But it was Llantwit's day as the ref blew up for full time with Llantwit deserved winners.

Both teams retired to the pavilion for a well earned coke and hot dog! The Llantwit starting 11 was completed by Chris Blatchford and Connor Taylor.

The remaining substitutes for the day were Ciaran Webb, Jack Hughes, Rhys Richards, Alex Pendle and Aiden Weeks. Special thanks to Andy Ross for officiating.

Adrian Morris

Agony for the Huskies in defeat

BARRY Huskies Basketball Club finally got the second half of their Valleys League season under way with a tough third round cup (first leg) game against the Kenfig Cougars at Holm View.

This would be a tough test for the team, playing against the reigning Valleys League Champions who are also Cup holders and would be the team's first game in almost two months!

The Huskies went into the game with memories of the league encounter between the sides back in October, which the Cougars won by almost 40 points, and were eager to make amends.

However, an under-strength Huskies side were missing key players Anthony Trigg, Chris Gibbons and Chris Lewis and had eight other players cup-tied, leaving a bare squad of only seven players to compete against a team which boasted four current Welsh Internationals.

The Cougars came out of the blocks quickly and took advantage of the Huskies' under-sized unit by playing the game inside, scoring 10 quick points.

They then started scoring from outside, hitting eight points, at the same time their aggressive defence limited the Huskies' scoring, the quarter ending 24-9 to the Cougars.

A switch on the Huskies' defence in the second quarter saw Ian Gibbons play outstanding man-to-man defence on the Cougars' Welsh international centre, and on the offensive end, Lloyd Roberts and Elliott Thomas scored the team's 18 points between them. However, the Huskies still trailed by 16 at half-time.

The third quarter started with young Jack Dyer coming off the bench to utilise his pace – the Cougars couldn't match it and he scored a quickfire 11 points. Roberts was also proving unstoppable, while the Huskies' defence was also rock solid, limiting the Cougars to just 15 points. The quarter ended with the Huskies trailing by just seven.

The final quarter saw the Huskies close to within two points, Thomas and Roberts carrying the scoring load for the team, with Gibbons and Stuart Peters rocks at the back.

However, the lack of substitutes began to take its toll on the team, and the Cougars managed to make a six-point run of their own, before the Huskies brought it back. With six seconds to go, the Huskies had a chance to tie but turned the ball over, losing the game 78-76.

Afterwards, coach Coles said "This was a great result for us, bearing in mind we were very shorthanded and gave them a 20-point head start.

"It took a while for our touch to get back, but I'm pleased that we can head into next week's second leg just two points down."

Further club information can be found at www.barryhuskies.net or at our facebook page, Barry Huskies Basketball Club.

ET

Evan's 100-1 shock winner!

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

FAHRISEE*, a seven-year-old bay gelding, owned by Hugh Williams, and trained at Llancarfan by Evan Williams, caused one of the biggest shocks of the National Hunt season when winning the Heating Solutions Maiden Hurdle at Hereford last Sunday, *writes Brian Lee.

Enterprisingly ridden by Donal Fahy, the lightly raced *Fahrisee* scored by half-a-length from *Secret Stash* trained by another Welsh trainer, Alison Thorpe. Those punters who backed *Fahrisee* on the Tote – and there couldn't have been many of them – were rewarded with odds of almost 243-1.

His assistant trainer, James Tudor, also had plenty to smile about as he rode a double at the Vine & Craven Point-To-Point at Barbury Racecourse with *Bon Accord* (confined race) and *William Summers* (intermediate).

Later in the day, Kenfig Hill's John Flint and his son Rhys teamed up to win the BBC Hereford & Worcester Handicap Chase with *Star Galaxy*, who got home by a head from *Rince Donn*.

At Warwick, 24 hours earlier, Aberthin's Tim Vaughan took the Bet Totepool To Support Sport Handicap Hurdle with his promising seven-year-old *Winterwood*, well ridden by Abergavenny's Sam Thomas.

Wenvoe Castle GC honours its active senior membership

WENVOE Castle Golf Club has a thriving seniors section with more than 50 very active members.

The seniors organise regular weekly competitions and enjoy friendly team matches both home and away against other golf clubs in south Wales.

The seniors open days held each year in July and September which prove very popular with visitors and are often over subscribed.

Their enthusiasm holds no bounds and the course has benefited over the years from their individual skills and experience in planting shrubs and flowers to brighten up the course.

In addition, the seniors section make regular donations to the club to install useful facilities around the course such as ball washers, litter baskets and shoe cleaning equipment.

In recognition of their organisation and contribution to club life over many years, a special honours board has been erected in the clubhouse which lists the individual captains of the seniors section spanning more than 20 years.

The new board was unveiled by last year's captain Brian Jones, who was joined by Phil Day, also a former captain almost 20 years' ago.

The current captain, Roger Thomas, was unable to attend the ceremony because of holiday commitments but Brian Green, the club captain and Brian Coffin, club president were both on hand to congratulate the seniors on their excellent work and contribution over the years.

Former senior captains Phil Day (left) and Brian Jones unveiling the new Seniors Section honours board.

Penarth pupils try out non-traditional sports

Pupils at Stanwell School taking part in fencing, with Pete O'Sullivan (right), joined by Vale Council cabinet member for leisure and tourism Coun Anthony Ernest and fencing coach Peter Russell (left).

FENCING, dodgeball and futsal are among the non-traditional sports for secondary school pupils in Penarth – part of an innovative 5x60 scheme.

New 5x60 Officer Pete O'Sullivan is organising sessions at both Stanwell School and St Cyres Comprehensive outside school hours.

Mr O'Sullivan said: "Some pupils may not be that keen on the traditional sports such as football, rugby, netball and hockey, and really want to have a go at something different, such as fencing.

"The pupils are able to voice their opinions and ideas for what they would like to get involved in."

Isabel celebrates her 50th winner!

***RIGHT:* As was reported in last week's GEM by Brian Lee, Isabel Tompsett (left) notched up her 50th point to point winner, after her success on Chesnut Annie in the ladies open race at Erw Lon. On the right is Chesnut Annie's owner and trainer, Beth Roberts. Photograph by Alun Sedgmore/Sporting Prints.**

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06 **06 VOLKSWAGEN Golf GT TDi 2.0 (140) 5-dr** in steel grey with dark interior, cd, dual climate control, cruise control, alloy wheels, electric mirrors, only 58,300 miles **£9,995**

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03 53 HYUNDAI Coupe 2.0SE, 51k, leather

Finance example

Amount of credit: £4975.00
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Total amount payable £6169.16
Weekly equivalent £39.55

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Small Cars

02 02 SUZUKI Wagon R 1.3 GL Special 5dr. Silver met, 50k miles, rcl, a/c, e/w, alloys **£3,475**
03 03 FIAT Punto 1.2 Active 5dr. Blue met, 47k miles, rcl, pas, e/w, cd **£3,675**
03 03 TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 AUTO. Blue met, 25k, rcl, pas,ew, cd **£3,975**
03 03 SKODA Fabia 1.9 TDi Turbo Diesel 5dr. Green met, 61k miles, rcl, cd, alloys **£4,475**
03 53 SEAT Ibiza 1.2 5-dr. Grey met, 52k, rcl, pas, ew, cd **£3,975**
04 04 RENAULT Clio 1.4 Expression 5dr. Blue met, 32k miles, rcl, pas, e/w, cd **£4,675**
04 54 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 3dr SXI. Blue metallic, 53k miles, rcl, alloys, ew, pas **£4,475**
05 54 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 3-dr. Silver, met, 58k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd **£4,475**
05 05 CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0 SE+ 5-dr. Silver met, 50k miles, rcl, ew, pas, cd **£3,965**
06 06 VAUXHALL Agila 1.2 16v Enjoy 5dr. Met purple, 12k miles rcl,pas,ew,cd **£5,975**
06 56 HYUNDAI 1.4 Getz GSi 3-dr. Black, met, 15k miles, rcl, ew, pas, cd **£4,975**
07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Campus 5-dr, grey met, 39k miles, rcl, pas. ew, cd **£5,775**
07 07 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style 3-dr, silver met, 39k miles, ew, pas, cd **£6,475**
07 07 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Life (a/c) 3-dr, grey met, 26k miles, rcl, pas, cd, ew **£6,475**
07 07 CITROEN C3 1.4 Desire 5-dr. Met black, cd, a/c, pas, 12k miles **£6,975**

Family Cars

02 02 NISSAN Almera Twister 1.5 5-dr. Mint green met, 19k miles, rcl, pas, cd, ew **£3,475**
03 53 MAZDA 6 2.0 TS2 DIESEL (136). Silver met, 80k miles, alloys, cd, a/c, ew, rcl **£4,975**
04 04 HONDA Jazz 1.4 DSI SE AUTO 5dr. Silver metallic, rcl,cd,ew, alloys **£4,975**
05 05 RENAULT Megane 1.4 Rush 3-dr Silver met, 53k miles, alloys, rcl, a/c, cd **£4,475**
05 05 NISSAN Almera Tino 1.8 SE mpv, 31k miles **£4,975**
07 07 FIAT Grande Punto 1.2 Dynamic 5dr. Met blue, e windows, rcl, 5k miles **£6,975**
07 07 PEUGEOT 307 Hdi 90SE TURBO DIESEL. Green/grey met, 38k miles, alloys, rcl, ew, cd, a/c **£7,975**

Sports & Executives

00 W PORSCHE 911 Carrera 4 Coupe AUTO. 75k miles, fsh, met purple, many extras inc 2 tone exhaust **£15,975**
02 52 BMW 325ci Sport AUTO Coupe. Blue met, 72k miles, sand leather, alloys, a/c, rcl, cd **£7,975**
03 52 PEUGEOT 206cc Convertible. Silver met, 38k miles, rcl, e/w, cd, 2 tone leather **£5,975**
03 53 HYUNDAI 2.0 Coupe SE. Blue met, 51k, full leather, rcl, a/c, alloys **£4,975**
04 53 MGTF 1.8 135 CONVERTIBLE. Silver met, 31k miles, alloys, rcl, e/w, pas **£4,975**
04 04 TOYOTA Celica VVTi. Met silver, 39k, S/H, sports pack, leather, sunroof, a/c **£7,475**
04 54 RENAULT Megane 1.9 DCi 3dr (120bhp) Dynamique TURBO DIESEL. 60k miles, panoramic roof, rcl, a/c, e/w **£5,475**
05 54 VAUXHALL Vectra 1.9 CDTi SRI AUTO 5dr. Met blue, alloys, a/c, fsh **£5,975**
05 05 HYUNDAI Sonata 2.4 CDX AUTO. Silver met, 50k miles, alloys, rcl, a/c, cd, full leather **£4,975**
06 56 CHEVROLET Lacetti Sport 1.8. Black met, 30k, alloys, cd, rcl, a/c **£5,975**
08 08 FIAT Grande Punto 1.4 Dynamic Sport. Grey, 12k miles, rcl, e/w, alloys, a/c **£7,975**

Estates, MPVs and 4x4s

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04 04 FORD Galaxy 2.4 AUTO Ghia MPV. Met silver, 90l miles, rcl, a/c, alloys, cd, cruise **£5,975**
04 54 BMW X5 3.0D AUTO Sport. Silver met, 104k, fsh, alloys, sat nav, cd, climate, full leather **£12,975**
05 54 CITROEN Picasso 1.6 HDi Exclusive MPV, met silver **£7,475**
06 56 FORD Focus C-Max AUTO MPV. Blue met, 33,000 miles, rcl, ew, cd, ac, alloys, cruise **£7,675**

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06 56 CITROEN C3 1.6 SX 5dr AUTO. Met blue, **only 5200 miles!** New £12,182 **Ours £6,475** **Saving £5,707**
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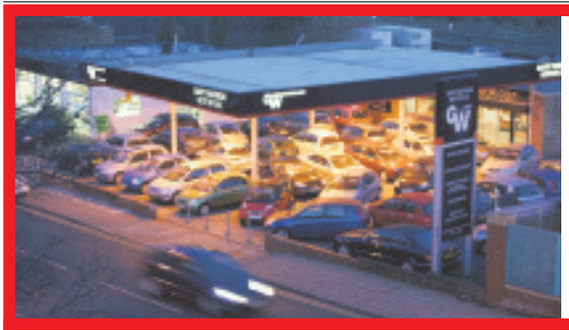

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Y	**VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Convertible.** In red, 91,000 miles, 4 seat convertible at	**£3,295**

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55	**PEUGEOT 407 2.0 HDi SE.** In met-grey, 51,000 miles, comfortable stylish diesel at	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £5,995**
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56	**FIESTA 125 Style Climate 3-dr.** In white, 33,000 miles	**REDUCED BY £1000 TO £4,995**
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54	**VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Design Auto.** In silver, 20,000 miles, superb throughout	**£4,995**
06	**CHEVROLET Kalos 1.4 Sport 3-dr.** In black, with black leather trim, 37,000 miles	**£4,695**
05	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Twin Port SXi.** In met silver, 48,000 miles, 1 local owner	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,495**
53	**FORD Fiesta 1.4 Flame 5-dr.** In silver frost, 49,000 miles with a/c	**£4,295**
06	**FORD Ka Collection.** In met. black, 58,000 miles, low insurance & road tax	**£3,995**
54	**SMART4Two. 700cc True Style Auto** in met black, panoramic roof, alloys, cd	**£3,995**
54	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.3 Diesel SXi Automatic.** In silver, 73,000 miles	**£3,995**
02	**VW Polo 1.4TDi SE 5-Dr.** In met. Blue, low mileage diesel at	**£3,995**
54	**CITROEN C2 1.1LX 3-dr.** In met red with cd, under 40,000 miles, low ins & road tax	**REDUCED BY £300 TO £3,695**
05	**CHEVROLET Tacuma 1.6 SXi** in silver, 66,000 miles. People carrier at only	**£3,495**
03	**RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 5-dr.** In met grey, low mileage local example at	**£3,495**
03	**FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDCi 5-dr Finesse** in steel grey, 94,000 miles, £35 a year road tax	**£2,995**
51	**MAZDA 323F 1.4 GXi 5-dr.** In met blue, 60,000 miles, practical, reliable hatch at	**£2,995**
02	**FORD Mondeo 2.0 LX 5-Dr Automatic.** In champagne metallic, 53,000 miles	**£2,995**
02	**RENAULT Clio 1.2 Dynamique 3-Dr.** In Black, 68,000 miles, alloys, CD etc.	**£2,995**
04	**DAEWOO Tacuma 1.6 Extra.** In Met. Red, 78,000 miles, with CD, alloys etc.	**£2,795**
02	**RENAULT Clio 1.2 Dynamique 3-Dr.** In Black, 69,000 miles, alloys, sunroof etc.	**£2,795**
03	**DAEWOO Kalos 1.4SE 5-dr.** In met-blue, 56,000 miles, ideal family hatch	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £2,495**
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Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£6,718.84
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£3,876.00
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FordNew Fiesta Zetec
1.25 16v Duratec (82PS)

On The Road Price**	£10,195.00
24 Monthly Payments	£207.47
Deposit Allowance***	£450.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£450.00
Amount of Credit	£9,745.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£699.52
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£9,454.52
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£5,515.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

**includes £2,000 Ford/Government Scrappage Allowance and £2,550 customer saving

Typical **4.9% APR**
Freepost Ford Credit

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FordFocus Zetec
1.6 16v Petrol (100PS) Euro Stage IV

On The Road Price**	£12,295.00
24 Monthly Payments	£250.81
Deposit Allowance***	£1,500.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£1,500.00
Amount of Credit	£10,795.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£804.44
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£11,599.44
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£5,580.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

**includes £2,000 Ford/Government Scrappage Allowance and £3,950.00 customer saving

Typical **4.9% APR**
Freepost Ford Credit

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FordNew Fiesta Edge
1.25 Petrol (60PS)

On The Road Price**	£8,695.00
24 Monthly Payments	£161.22
Deposit Allowance***	£450.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£450.00
Amount of Credit	£8,245.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£661.28
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£9,356.28
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£5,027.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

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Deposit Allowance***	£450.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£450.00
Amount of Credit	£7,445.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£584.84
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£8,479.84
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£4,266.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

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Deposit Allowance***	£1,000.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£1,000.00
Amount of Credit	£14,995.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£1,089.52
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£16,094.52
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£7,175.00
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Incredible... but Wales cannot expect to repeat the Great Escape

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

THE air of incredulity at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff was mirrored in pubs and clubs across Wales on Saturday evening, as ecstatic rugby supporters celebrated a feat worthy of the great escapologist Houdini himself.

Looking at a final scoreboard reading Wales 31 Scotland 24, everyone knew they had witnessed one of the most amazing turnarounds in world sport, the like of which will surely not be repeated in their lifetime.

For all of 70 minutes, it had seemed there could be only one realistic outcome, as a completely transformed Scottish team rampaged about the field like kilted Highland clansmen of old, scattering defenders before them and threatening to inflict a defeat of epic proportions on a Welsh team still recovering from the previous weekend's 30-17 loss to England at Twickenham.

With literally minutes left on the clock, and comfortably ahead at 24-14, the determined Scots must have thought their first triumph at the Millennium Stadium since 2002 was at last in sight – thanks to a master-class in cool control by impressive outside half, Blues-bound Dan Parks – firmly marshalling a typically robust Scottish pack and a snappily-alert threequarter line.

It was then that Lady Luck, who has not smiled on Wales too much recently, this time turned her face against the Scots, who bizarrely began to implode through a combination of injuries to key personnel, including Parks and the unfortunate Thom Evans – and a catastrophic collapse in discipline, which saw two players in the sin bin as the stadium clock counted down towards full time.

Suddenly, 13-man Scotland's total of two tries (one converted by Chris Paterson before he left the field injured) two penalties and two drop goals by that man Parks, was not enough.

In a nerve-jangling, dramatic finale, the Welsh team launched a series of desperate attacks that reaped an astounding 17 points, in just about the time it took record-breaking Roger Bannister to run the first four-minute mile.

The Welsh points came from tries by Lee Byrne and Leigh Halfpenny, with four penalties and two conversions by Stephen Jones; but fittingly, with the score now level at 24-24, the irrepressible Shane Williams, who had spearheaded the surreal comeback, dealt the *coup de grace* to Scottish hopes with a scampering try under the posts converted by Jones, with seconds to spare.

While the battling Scots may well feel that justice was not done in the end, and home critics point to familiar Welsh failings in execution that were again exposed by another disappointing error count, the experience of the two games thus far in the Six Nations may yet stand them in good psychological stead.

Before the Twickenham match, Lawrence Dallaglio repeated his questionable view that Welsh players lack mental strength and that "heads go down" when the going gets tough.

The perception surely has been emphatically answered in this year's Six Nations, not only by the commendable way in which Wales came back to within a whisker of winning at Twickenham, but even more so in those frantic dying seconds on Saturday, when Wales simply refused to concede defeat – or even settle for a draw.

Few teams could have matched the mental strength, never mind the level of physical fitness required after such a prolonged battering, to not only recover but snatch victory from the very edge of defeat.

That said, the Welsh camp will be fully aware that their Great Escape cannot obscure the harsh truth that Wales were second best for much of this game,

They also know full well that there will be no such such happy outcome if the error-ridden, defensively-frail performance is repeated against next week's visitors to the Millennium Stadium, the formidable French, who can already scent a Grand Slam in the air after demolishing title holders Ireland in Paris.

Warren Gatland and his fellow coaches have several key choices to make in the starting line-up, not least at half back, but have little time to eradicate the weaknesses exposed by the Scots at breakdown and set piece.

That said, they will have been hugely cheered by the tenacity and never-say-die spirit shown by the Welsh players in the closing minutes on Saturday.

If this can be maintained from the outset, to smoothly execute an error-free game plan, the gifted Welsh backline could ensure that French Grand Slam hopes are thwarted yet again, *a la* 2008!

It will be a tough challenge but they have already proved it can be done.

COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORT

Good finish to girls cross country season

THE Girl's Cross Country Championships, and the third and final league race of the year, was held at Trelai Park on Tuesday, February 9 and, on yet another extremely cold day, the girls battled against the elements to produce some excellent performances.

The year-8 and year-9 girls opened the championships. The team were slightly depleted due to illness and involvement in other extracurricular activities, but those remaining put in a tough fight.

Annabel Curle, despite struggling to overcome a recent hip injury, was the first athlete home for Cowbridge in 10th position, closely followed by Miriam Bennett in 12th place.

The remaining girls finished in the following positions: Jo Wilkins – 51st; Izzy Eddy-Williams – 55th; Niamh Gallagher – 56th; Ffion Hopkins – 67th.

The year-7s continued to improve on these results and managed to get their first four athletes through in the first 20.

Rebecca Thomas was first home for Cowbridge in an impressive third place, closely followed by Nadine Jones in sixth, Alice Tudor in 13th and Eleanor Bishop in 15th.

Brooke Langton-Cryer was 36th, Hannah Lister-Simms 65th and Evie Williams completed the Cowbridge campaign in 67th. An excellent all-round team performance from the year-7s.

The seniors competed in the last race of the day and despite struggling with the extreme temperatures they did not disappoint.

Year 10, Fiona Bray beat many older athletes to secure her very pleasing seventh position, far exceeding her top 12 goal. She was closely followed by Rachel Bradshaw in 16th place, Katie Wynne in 17th and Elspeth Bisson in 22nd place to complete Cowbridge's first team home.

Huge improvement from Holly Preece saw her run an excellent time to take 26th, followed by Lucy Williams in 30th and finally Georgia Kemeys in 34th who, despite struggling with aching joints, battled on to secure points for the senior team.

Again, the seniors produced a set of excellent results, despite pressure from recent module and re-sit exams.

Thanks to all the girls for their commitment and hard work through a very cold cross country season! Well done!

Fine away win confirms town's progress this year

COWBRIDGE TOWN FC recorded arguably their biggest, and most impressive win of the season as they came from behind to beat a physical Inter Penarth away.

Growing as a side over the last six games, the creative talent of Town is now established. This win however, demonstrated a different side, as the match descended into a war of attrition.

There were some glimpses of the talent that has seen Cowbridge develop a free -coring style. Josh Llewellyn-Jones tormented his marker once again, and good touches in the box from Gethin Still illustrated the red and blacks growing reputation.

Town nearly broke the first-half deadlock twice, both chances falling to the boot of the impressive Gethin Still who, after excellent work in the box, watched his attempts miss in agonizing fashion.

An experienced Inter Penarth midfield ensured that their team was always a threat, and their efforts reaped rewards in controversial fashion. A free kick curled deep into the Town box was cleared but the referee gave a penalty, which bemused the away side, who were accused of pushing.

Inter Penarth slotted the penalty to take a slender one-nil lead into the break.

The second half was equally intense, as Inter Penarth matched Cowbridge determination and desire, and attacking moves were earned rather than presented by two impressive defences.

For Cowbridge, first Mark Rollings and then Nick Vaile came close. Subsequently, it was the latter's endeavor and determination which led to his side's equalizer, as Vaile chased a seemingly lost cause, clipping the ball around the keeper only to be clattered to the floor.

The penalty, stroked coolly home by the outstanding Llewellyn-Jones, breathed fresh belief into the red and blacks, who were in no mood to share the points.

As the match went on, it was left to captain fantastic – Craig Burrows – to grab the spoils.

Llewellyn-Jones' jink inside presented a good shooting opportunity, which the confident winger duly took, only for his captain to steer in a header past the wrong-footed keeper to delirious scenes.

The win pushes Cowbridge further up the league, and the performance leaves them confident of pushing onwards.

MR

Six Nations rest sees Cowbridge back in action

AFTER a break of two weeks, Cowbridge 1st XV are back in action this Saturday (February 20) in a home fixture against the team just beneath them in the league, Penygraig (kick off 2.30pm).

The youth team are also due to be playing at home in a re-arranged fixture. So if you want to see some local, grass-roots rugby we will be pleased to see you – and in the clubhouse afterwards

There was a terrific atmosphere in the club for the England game, and a good turn out for the Scotland game boosted by the arrival of the fans from Boroughmuir Rugby Club in Edinburgh.

They were very disappointed by the result and were obviously concerned about the serious injury to Thom Evans, but had throughly enjoyed their stay in Cowbridge and the unbelievable game that unfolded.

All rugby supporters join in wishing Thom Evans well.

The club will be open for the French game on February 26 with kick off at 8pm, and if we can stop handing points to the opposition, we may be in with a chance.

Whatever happens it should be exciting!

Then on Saturday, February 27, a Cowbridge XV take on ASTAS from Paris, with kick off at about 1pm. So, if all players will brush off their boots and brush up their French and get to the club for midday, it should be lots of fun.

England v Ireland are due to kick off at 4pm.

Finally we wish our own Luke Adams a good recovery from his recent ankle operation, an important player for us, we hope that he will return fit and strong , and not before the start of next season .

RV/RK

Mixed fortunes for local boxers

ON February 12, Vale boxers Daniel Ruffle and Dale Phillips fought at the OCLP club in Bridgend.

Daniel Ruffle boxed Levi Lawrence from YMCA Cardiff on a return bout. It was a hard fought contest over three rounds. Daniel lost out on the judges' scoring cards.

Dale Phillips boxed Leigh Horne from Bridgend. Dale started fast and furious, landing the heavier shots and winning the first round.

The second round saw Dale draw blood from his opponent, forcing a standing count. In the third round, Dale picked up the pace forcing a late stoppage.

Daniel will be representing Wales this weekend against the English Western Counties in the quarter-finals of the British Schoolboys championships.

Daniel Ruffle and Dale Phillips

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